

THE TIMES

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RAISING THE STANDARDS

How Tebbit beat the BBC

MEDIA PAGE 23

SIMON WALKER

Inquiry urged on Treasury 'profits over euro'

BY JANET BUSH AND PHILIP WEBSTER

THE Conservatives suggested last night that the Treasury may have profited from the confusion over its stance on a European single currency — and demanded an official investigation.

Peter Lilley, the Shadow Chancellor, has called for City regulators to examine allegedly unusual movements in the markets ahead of recent conflicting press reports on government policy.

In letters to Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, and to the Securities and Investments Board, he says: "Until this whole episode is laid bare, no-one investing in London's financial markets can be confident that the value of their assets is not subject to political manipulation."

The Government, he adds, should be subject to the same rules about issuing misleading information and creating false markets as private firms.

Mr Lilley has asked regulators to focus on two particular episodes: September 25, the day before the *Financial Times* reported that ministers were warming towards early entry into the single currency and last Friday, the day before *The Times* ran an interview with Gordon Brown signalling that Britain would not join for at least five years.

The first report sent share and bond prices soaring and sterling tumbling, while confusion after the second saw a sharp fall in prices and a large rise in the pound.

Mr Lilley has provided charts showing sharp movements in the pound before the press reports were published, suggesting that some financial market players may have had enough knowledge of their contents to make a lot of

money before the rest of the market was able to react.

City suspicions had also been aroused by unusual trading in the foreign exchange and government bond markets. One leading investment bank is planning to complain to the Treasury and the Bank about what it alleges has been unusual trading in the gilt market ahead of news stories on EMU.

Mr Lilley yesterday highlighted two sources of concern. He criticised the Government for failing for three weeks to repudiate the *Financial Times* story — and indeed endorsing its contents in a number of statements by ministers — and therefore "creating a false market". The Treasury may have sold government bonds at prices that benefited from the story, he wrote, adding: "Any one else who did this would be committing a very serious offence."

If any private individual issued conflicting stories and profited in the meantime they would certainly face investigation; it is even more important to establish who is responsible for conflicting stories which may have benefited government and disadvantaged private firms and individuals."

The Bank of England last night said that it would seriously consider the contents of the letter. The Treasury also said it was considering points made by Mr Lilley in a letter to the Chancellor.

The Shadow Chancellor has also asked the Chairman of the Treasury Select Committee to investigate these matters and to plan to put down parliamentary questions on them.

Continued on page 2, col 6

Paper round, page 23



Party dress: Tory MPs Desmond Swayne, Tim Loughton, William Hague, Philip Hammond and John Redwood putting on the "casual" style in Eastbourne yesterday

A Tory MP's idea of casual dress? Suit yourself

BY ANDREW PIERCE

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM HAGUE'S attempt to fashion a modern image for the Conservatives came apart at the seams yesterday at the start of a two-day bonding session for MPs.

The latest fault line in the parliamentary party was nothing to do with the usual flashpoint of Europe, but whether to be casual or smart.

Mr Hague issued an edict to his troops to dress in "relaxed style" for the gathering at the Grand Hotel in Eastbourne.

But the MPs, denied their regulation pinstripe suits, could not agree on a uniform line. The result was a riotous clash of sartorial cultures as Savile Row suits competed with country tweeds and knitted creations.

While Labour has redefined itself by adopting colour coding and power dressing, the youngest Tory leader for 200 years has adopted a more informal approach. But even Mr Hague, 36, got it wrong. He arrived at the hotel in a smart dogtooth jacket, blue slacks, pale blue shirt, buckled shoes — and a red tie, which he was forced to abandon as he crossed the threshold.

Tories have never enjoyed the game of follow-my-leader and there were murmurs of discontent as the first MPs arrived for seminars on the "feminisation of society" and how to reconnect with the British people and their emotions. Sir Teddy Taylor (in corduroy and jumper) was contemptuous of the whole idea of bonding. "We can forget all this silly touchy-feely talk and public relations gimbickery. I'm here to talk about

What goes on in the mind of a man who gets up in the morning, puts on a military striped tie, then pulls a sweatshirt over the top?

Grace Bradberry, page 2

suit opted not to stay at all — as Mrs Cumpsty's £20 bed-and-breakfast lodgings.

But it was the confounding dress code that was the most conspicuous failure of the day. Douglas Hogg at least made an effort in his thick woolen jumper, corduroys and brown rubber-soled walking boots — although the approach was marred by the reappearance of the fedora that irritated Tory spin-doctors so much that he was barred from wearing it during the election campaign.

Bernard Jenkin (Next jeans and check jacket) was proud to be voted fashion icon of the day. "I bought this jacket in 1987," he said. Andrew Robathan was in more sober corduroy trousers. "I'm too old to own a pair of jeans," the 46-year-old Blaby MP said.

After Mr Hague had addressed the Grand is hardly the same as Mrs Cumpsty's £20 bed-and-breakfast lodgings.

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Survivor tells of Algerian massacre

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

Foster children in court U-turn

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

TWO NIGERIAN children who were ordered to be returned to their natural mother to grow up in their "own race and culture" are now to remain with their white foster mother after a "courageous" U-turn by a High Court judge.

The children, aged eight and 10, have for more than a year faced being torn from the woman they regard as their mother and her home in the North East of England after Mr Justice Singer agreed they should return to their natural mother.

The natural mother, a 35-year-old living in London, had handed the boys over to the 52-year-old foster mother under a private arrangement when they were a few weeks old so that she could continue a business studies degree.

The attack, which left 27 dead, occurred on the night of September 22-23. Most of the victims, including a six-year-old girl, had their throats cut, according to the witness. At least 34 women were abducted.

The Government blames the attack on Islamic extremists trying to win rural support through terror before tomorrow's local elections.

The foster mother opposed their natural mother's legal battle for their return. She told the High Court the children were bed-wetting, crying and threatening to run away if

All of Beethoven's Symphonies in the palm of your hand.

Pru rebuked over pensions review

Prudential Corporation was reprimanded for "serious shortcomings" in its handling of the pensions mis-sell review. The Securities and Investments Board said it had not acted with "due care, skill and diligence". — Pages 25, 27

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'Candle' blazes to record sale

BY EMMA WILKINS

IT MAY be only a candle in the wind, but Elton John's new single has flickered past Bob Crosby's *White Christmas* at the speed of light.

Yesterday *Candle in the Wind* 1997 was officially declared by the Guinness Book of Records to have become the biggest selling single record of all time. With 31.8 million sales already, the song performed at the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, has in 37 days overtaken the 30 million sales it took Crosby 35 years to achieve.

Last night John said he was "thrilled and staggered" at the record's success, and he is expected to send a cheque for £20 million — from five million copies sold in Britain — to the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, within the next few days. The record is expected eventually to raise more than £100 million — including £10 million that would have gone to the Treasury if it had not surrendered its VAT revenue from the record.

Kate Knightley, Day, spokeswoman for the fund, said that she was delighted by the new record. It is amazing news and congratulations to Elton John. Everyone at the fund is thrilled.

The fund has so far raised nearly £12 million and char-

ities are expected to start benefiting early next year after nine further trustees are appointed to join Sarah McCarry, the Princess's sister; Michael Gibbons, her personal secretary; and Anthony Julius, her solicitor.

Candle in the Wind was replaced as Britain's number one by the Spice Girls this week. *Spice World* is their fifth successive chart-topper. The Beatles still hold the record as the artist with the most consecutive number one hits, with 11 from *From Me to You* in 1963 to *Elephant Love* in 1966. The single which spent the most consecutive weeks at the top was *Everything I Do I Do It For You* by Bryan Adams with 11 weeks in 1991.

The other biggest selling singles are *Rock Around the Clock* by Bill Haley and his Comets (25 million copies) and *I Want to Hold Your Hand* by the Beatles (13 million).

□ The Telenettes are aiming for the Christmas pop charts with the release of their first single called *Telephones Say Eh-Oh*. But news of its release dismayed the Yorkshire musician Vincent Brown, who recorded his own song called *Tubby Anthem*. Proceeds were to go to the Childline charity but the BBC threatened legal action and halted the record.

Night of terror, page 11

they were returned to their natural mother.

But despite her plea in July last year, Mr Justice Singer ruled, at a private hearing, that the youngsters must return to their natural mother to grow up in their "own race and culture", after she agreed to remain in Britain.

The children, aged eight and 10, have for more than a year faced being torn from the woman they regard as their mother and her home in the North East of England after Mr Justice Singer agreed they should return to their natural mother.

The natural mother, a 35-year-old living in London, had handed the boys over to the 52-year-old foster mother under a private arrangement when they were a few weeks old so that she could continue a business studies degree.

They remained with their foster mother, who has three adult children of her own, never spending more than a few weeks with their natural mother. When in 1995 they discovered she wanted them back and was planning to return to Nigeria, they were distraught.

The foster mother opposed their natural mother's legal battle for their return. She told the High Court the children were bed-wetting, crying and threatening to run away if

they were returned to their natural mother.

Yesterday it was the turn of the natural mother to appeal.

Through her counsel, Eleanor

Continued on page 2, col 5

See Iomega advert inside.

Blair to announce Labour's first sell-off

By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR will unveil Labour's first privatisation today and call on the Commonwealth to join his campaign to modernise national and international institutions.

The Prime Minister is to announce that the Government is to sell its majority holding in the £1.5 billion Commonwealth Development Corporation, which has investments in 54 poorer countries and manages 34 businesses across the world.

He wants to turn the body, which is based in London but has 25 local offices in developing countries, into a public-private partnership. The proceeds from the sale will go back into development aid. Mr Blair will say in a speech to the Commonwealth Business Forum two days before the Commonwealth Heads of government summit opens in Edinburgh.

He will say that, although it is a change of approach for Labour, he is more interested in whether something works than in whether it is private or public.

The development corporation has for some time been self-financing. Its investments, originally prompted by public money, are now yielding funds that keep the organisation going without government support.

Mr Blair will say that he is determined that the Edinburgh summit will be a "historic turning point" for the Commonwealth, providing "an opportunity to modernise institutions and focus on the challenges for a new century".

The Government believes that the development corporation is underused and will benefit by being freed for access to the capital markets. The aim is to provide substantial extra money for commercial investments and the sale, Mr Blair will say, will underline Britain's commitment to helping to fight world poverty.

Last night Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, welcomed the move and said she wanted the corporation to play a bigger role.

The Tory MPs who dress to kill style

WHAT goes on in the mind of a man who gets up in the morning, puts on a military striped tie, then pulls a sweatshirt over the top?

As photographs emerge of the sartorial devastation wreaked in Eastbourne this week, it is a question that the Tory party's image-makers must face.

There are men in the party who have never forgotten Bertrand Russell's gibe about Anthony Eden — "Not a gentleman; dresses too well" — and have struggled for just the right level of incompetence ever since. It is in their casual gear that

they attain true social grandeur.

Jumpers pulled down so that the panache bulges through, work shirts combined with jeans, double-breasted blazers with gilt buttons: these are a few of the finer touches on show this week.

Many MPs seem to suffer a sort of hangover from their boyhoods, when as a protest at the cost of the public school uniform their parents would buy them only one pair of casual trousers. Belts, shoes, even shirts, had to "carry over" — and they have continued this thrifty policy ever since.

The most basic piece of advice is that clothes should go with one another. Nylon work shirts should never be worn with casual trousers. There are plenty of Oxford cotton shirts around and if it's chilly these can be worn under sweaters — *with one button open and no tie*.

Brown needlecord and blue jeans both go with brown shoes or boots, *not* with black work shoes. Belts

Grace Bradberry offers a few tips on casual dressing to the fashionably challenged MPs meeting in Eastbourne for William Hague's bonding session where sweatshirts clash with striped ties

should match, as should socks. Tasseled loafers are not pleasant. Chinos are fine — but can give the impression that you are a member of Special Branch.

An MP's sense of humour, normally expressed through his tie, should not be allowed to gravitate to his feet: nothing is likely to infuriate the masses more than a "witty" pair of

socks. Sweaters should be plain. Horizontal stripes only emphasise the effects of heavy Westminster lunches. Diamond patterns are heinous. There is no need to be fashionable.

The green shoots of Tory recovery were perhaps best seen yesterday in an attractive tweed jacket worn with a Liberty cotton check shirt, under a plain crew-neck sweater.

However, it would certainly help if a few Tory MPs could manage to be in touch with the late 1990s. Golfing umbrellas should be taken nowhere but the golf course. The ubiquitous Barbour should be swapped for black nylon jackets that bear some resemblance to the Prada ones — nobody outside the party wants to be reminded of the size of your estate or your prowess on the greensward. And if your estate is a 200-acre garden in the constituency, then it is even wiser not to play the country square.

The British designers Nicole Farhi and Paul Smith are renowned for their casual tailwear, while Richard James, the new-wave St James's tailor, produces stretch Bedford cords and brightly coloured tweed jackets.

Clothes image, page 16

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cosmetic tests on animals continue

Animals may continue to be used to test the safety of cosmetics for at least another five years, despite an election campaign pledge to end the practice, and a proposal to set up a Royal Commission on animal experiments has been set aside for the time being.

Some 2,800 animals were used to test cosmetics in Britain last year; 2.7 million were used in other research. Lord Williams of Mostyn, junior Home Office minister, said no new licences for using animals to test cosmetics had been issued since May, but four remained in force and the last would not run out until 2002. He said the Government's hands were tied by an EU directive which provided for a ban when "acceptable" alternative tests were available: there had been no agreement on accepted alternatives.

Tube train death

A boy aged 11 was killed when he fell beneath a train at Holborn station on the London Underground. The adult accompanying the boy was treated at the scene for shock. Chief Inspector Brian Gosden, of the Transport Police, said: "It appears to be a tragic accident."

Stalking charge

A man accused of murdering a young mother in his village has been charged with two offences under the new laws to prevent stalking. Mark Weston, 22, of Ashton-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire, was arrested and charged under the Protection from Harassment Act.

GP took heroin

A GP faces expulsion from his surgery after being convicted of taking heroin and injecting it into his lover, a nurse, with the drug. Michael Jones, 55, of the Marple Cottage Surgery, Manchester, was fined £2,000 by Stockport magistrates after admitting possessing, supplying and stealing heroin.

Street shooting

Two men were shot in the street by an unidentified man after an altercation when he pushed the mother of one of them. After the incident on Saturday night, the gunman put the pistol into his waistband and walked off into an estate near London Bridge, South London.

College dangers

The probable cause of a doubling in the number of university cases of meningitis in two years, from 189 in 1994 to 424 in 1996, was the lifestyle of students in their first year in college: they kissed, shared drinks and met more carriers. A conference on managing the illness was told yesterday.

5 held over attack

Policemen arrested five men yesterday after an attack on Sunday with baseball bats on Lee Holmes, 27, in Wednesfield, West Midlands. Mr Holmes, who had chased youths who were taunting his disabled father, is critically ill in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

Diana debate

Anglican bishops debated whether the Church of England had acted as an effective conduit for the nation's grief over the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. A spokesman said they had reflected on what the events of the week before the funeral meant for the mission of the Church.

Sex attack arrest

A 23-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of a brutal sex attack on a woman who was dumped in the boot of her car after being abducted in Loughborough town centre and raped in fields last Saturday. The assault lasted seven hours. The car was later found by a farmer near Belton.

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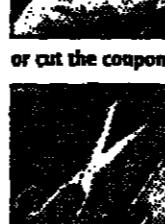
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EU ministers to taste delights of Blackburn

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

JUSTICE ministers and senior police officers from the 15 member states are to taste the highlights of Blackburn during Britain's forthcoming presidency of the European Union.

The Lancashire town is to host an anti-soccer-hooligan summit early next year intended to prevent thugs wrecking the World Cup in France. Blackburn has been chosen for the two-day seminar because it is the constituency Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, has represented since 1979.

Mr Straw was in Paris yesterday to meet his French counterpart, Jean-Pierre Chevénement, wants expertise to be pooled to ensure that the scenes before and during England's qualifier in Rome are not repeated.

The message has got to go out — and it is going out — that we will do everything we

can to undermine and disrupt the activities of those who have no interest in seeing football tournaments go ahead, but simply in committing violence and mayhem. We are not going to have it and that is the purpose of the co-operation, he said.

The town does not immediately spring to mind as one of the great conference venues but Ewood Park, the home ground of Blackburn Rovers, has conference facilities which can house 5,000 people.

Mr Straw, a regular on the terraces for home games, decided that Ewood Park would be the ideal spot for his fellow interior and justice minister to join football administrators and senior police officers from across the EU for the conference.

He is planning on the seminar ending just before kick-off on Saturday, October 25.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 22 1997

HOME NEWS 3

IRA bomb gang leader shot dead as police raided hideout, jury told

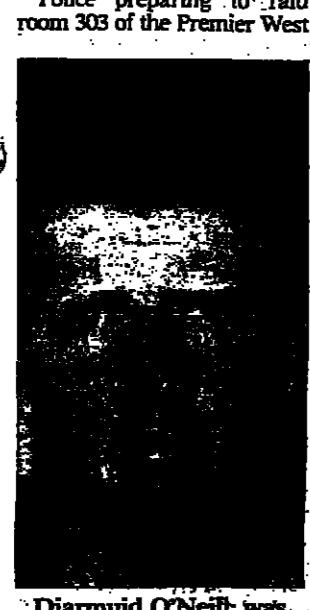
Old Bailey hears how an armed officer opened fire in hotel raid that thwarted a terrorist unit's London plot, reports Tim Jones

AN IRA plot to launch a bombing campaign in London ended with one of the leaders of an active service unit being shot dead in a police raid, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

The five-man unit had amassed tons of improvised explosives as a "dreadful cargo" to be loaded on the backs of lorries, David Waters, for the prosecution, said. The terrorists were thwarted, a jury was told, by a huge surveillance operation by police and security officers which ended in the death of Diarmuid O'Neill.

O'Neill, the court heard, was at the heart of the conspiracy and a vital member of the Provisional IRA team which was planning the attacks in the summer of last year. He was shot in September by an armed officer named in court only as Kilo who was part of a squad which smashed their way into the room in a West London hotel where O'Neill and two other gang members were hiding out.

Police preparing to raid room 303 of the Premier West



Diarmuid O'Neill was killed by armed police.



Patrick Kelly, Brian McHugh, James Murphy and Michael Phillips in the Old Bailey dock. They deny conspiracy to cause explosions

bomb targets in London." The jury heard that before the raid on September 23 officers taking part had been shown video of the IRA's bomb factory at an industrial estate at Hornsey where the gang kept three Kalashnikov rifles, two handguns and stacks of ammunition.

Inside the unit they rented on the estate, Mr Waters said, the gang had stored tons of ammonium nitrate-based fertiliser and sugar, a quantity of high explosive Semtex timers,

fuses and detonators. He said: "By the end of September 1996, they had stored in North London — in the words of the forensic scientist who examined the equipment — the wherewithal to mount a devastating campaign of terrorism."

"After they were left in place, the bombs would not explode until the time delay mechanisms had expired, by which time the defendants would be well away from the area and safe, in sharp contrast to any members of the public near the fortresses."

Patrick Kelly, 31, Brian McHugh, 31, James Murphy, 26, from Chelsea and Michael Phillips, 22, from Crawley, all deny conspiring to cause explosions by or in relation to endanger life or property.

Two of the men, Murphy, an assistant groundsman at Latimer Upper School in Shepherds Bush, and Phillips, a mechanical engineer employed by British Airways at Gatwick were involved from

the start with O'Neill in planning the bombing campaign.

McHugh, described as head of the unit, and Kelly, did not arrive in London from Ireland until a safe location had been found for the explosives. The six-week operation to track down the Unit codenamed Operation Tinnitus involved scores of members of the Metropolitan Police and officers from the intelligence services.

The IRA squad was well rehearsed in anti-IRA methods and took extreme care to avoid being followed. In spite of their caution, anti-terrorist officers planted listening and tracking devices in their cars and traced telephone calls they made to a kiosk in a village in the Irish Republic.

Eventually, after the gang had made several trips to Brighton, Sheffield, they were seen picking up a lorry which had been delivered by a driver who was allowed to fly back to Ireland.

The case continues.

Remand for man accused of Russell murders

By EMMA WILKINS

MICHAEL STONE was remanded in custody for a week yesterday after appearing before magistrates to be charged with the murders of Lin and Megan Russell.

Stone, 37, of Gillingham, Kent, who is unemployed, spoke only to confirm his name and address during the three-minute hearing before Medway magistrates in Chatham, Kent.

He is also charged with the attempted murder of Josie Russell, 10, whose recovery from brain injuries has received much publicity. Josie, her mother, 45, and sister, 6, were walking home through a cornfield near Chilenden, Kent, in July last year when they were attacked by a man with a hammer. Mrs Russell and Megan were battered to death and Josie was left for dead. The family dog, Lucy, was also killed.

Stone was first arrested in July days after a BBC *Crimeswatch* reconstruction was screened to coincide with the first anniversary of the murders. He was later charged with crimes unrelated to the killings. Stone cut a dishevelled figure in the dock, dressed in a large, grey, striped sweatshirt and trousers, sneakers and blue sports shirt.

Flanked by two prison guards, he was impassive as John Wheeler, clerk of the court, read the charges that, between July 8 and 11, 1996, he murdered Lin and Megan Russell and attempted to murder Josie.

After hearing that there was no application for bail, Dr Woodford said: "Stand up, Mr Stone. You will be remanded in custody until Wednesday October 29, morning court. Thank you, you may go."

After the hearing Derek Hayward, Stone's solicitor, read out a statement protesting his client's innocence. "Michael Stone would like to make it clear that he is innocent of these offences," Mr Hayward said. "This is a matter that has been continuously denied by him throughout all the police inquiries. There is nothing further to say at this stage."

FULL ON.

Lovelorn war veteran is fined for stalking

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A WAR veteran aged 77 who waged a hate campaign against his former lover and his septuagenarian rival yesterday became the oldest person to be fined for stalking.

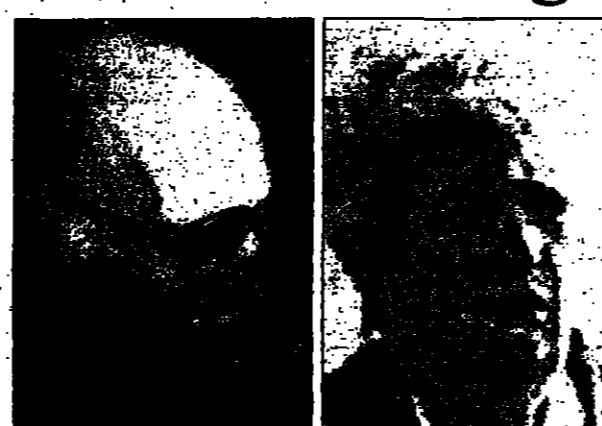
For eight months James Monk, a former RAF officer, bombarded Mary Sands, 55, with abusive telephone calls and sent her friends photographs and explicit letters boasting of their sexual exploits together.

When Monk, a retired film publicist, discovered that Mrs Sands was seeing David Bussey, 74, he pursued the couple and daubed graffiti on the walls of the house where they were staying.

Magistrates were told how Monk acted out of a broken heart, never thinking that he could feel so strongly for a woman "at his ripe old age".

The couple had met through a "lonely hearts" column. Monk showered Mrs Sands with expensive gifts, though their relationship soured after she asked him for a £6,000 loan and he accused her of being a gold-digger.

Mrs Sands was so upset by his vengeful campaign that



James Monk and Mary Sands, whom he bombarded with abusive calls after their relationship soured

she was off work for 14 weeks and close to a nervous breakdown. Monk accused her of trying to get her "greedy hands" on his savings, according to Jo Patrick, for the prosecution.

Miss Patrick told Market Harborough Magistrates' Court how the victim found a tyre on her car damaged while she was staying overnight at Mr Bussey's home in Markeaton, Leicestershire. As she drove to work the next day the tyre blew out, but she

managed to control the car. Monk, of Leicester, admitted harassing Mrs Sands between January 1 and August 27 this year. He was fined £1,000 and ordered to pay £2,000 compensation to his former lover, a part-time shopworker, another £1,000 to Mr Bussey, and told not to contact the couple for at least a year.

The former RAF NCO became the oldest man in Britain to be convicted under laws brought in earlier this year to protect victims from stalkers.

Medallion man at fever pitch as disco classic stays alive

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

AN AFFLICTION that causes otherwise normal people to put on white suits and medallions and listen to dangerous levels of 1970s disco music is predicted to sweep the country. *Saturday Night Fever*, which first infected cinema-goers 20 years ago, is to resurface next year as a musical.

The Bee Gees, who wrote the songs for the film, including *How Deep Is Your Love?*, *Stayin' Alive*, and *Night Fever*, have joined the veteran producer Robert Stigwood to launch the show, which will be at the London Palladium from next May. They will not be performing but have written

two new songs for the stage version. After flying from America yesterday, the three Gibb brothers, who were born on the Isle of Man, apologised that they no longer sported the long hair and kitsch clothes of the 1970s. "No white suits or medallions. Sorry to disappoint you," said Barry Gibb.

The film soundtrack album was the most successful ever, selling 50 million copies, and the film inspired an explosion in the popularity of disco.

"We find very unusual that the culture we're in today seems to be looking back to the Seventies after going through a period of forgetting about them," Barry Gibb said. Asked if he thought the musical in which Travolta gyrated so earnestly might now look faintly ridiculous, he said:

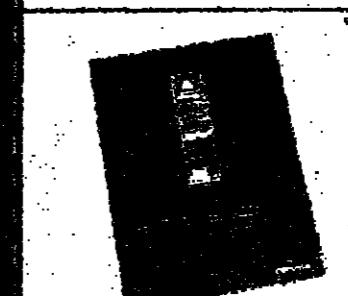
"Saturday Night Fever was high camp. It was silly in one respect and great fun in another. But it was extremely successful."

The Travolta role in the \$4 million London show will be played by Adam Garcia, a 24-year-old Australian, who was aged four the last time around but who has seen the film on video. The men who are responsible for getting the world on to the dance floor admitted yesterday that they don't dance themselves. "We can't surf, we can't dance, but we cruise," Barry said.

But there was still one mystery to clear up. What did happen to the medallions? "I still have two," Barry said. "We might have sparked the idea of people wearing medallions, but latterly I don't wear them."

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Britain will reject you, Gypsies told



Stranded: Barbova with her grandmother, Anna

By Richard Ford, home correspondent

THE Slovak Embassy joined British ministers yesterday in trying to stop hundreds of Gypsies seeking asylum in Britain. As a further 30 Czech and Slovak Gypsies headed for Dover, the Slovak authorities warned that they would not be welcome in Britain.

Earlier in the day 23 Czechs and one Slovak had arrived at Dover, bringing the number who have sought asylum since the weekend to 220. After being interviewed by immigration officials, 13 of the 24 withdrew asylum claims and were returned to France.

The Slovak Embassy intervened after a series of interviews with Mike O'Brien, the Immigration Minister, were broadcast and published in Slovakia and the Czech Republic. He gave warning that bogus asylum-seekers would be treated toughly.

In the statement the embassy said: "We warn everyone who is planning to come to the UK and apply through the asylum system to think twice." Slovak officials said they were determined to stop benefit cheats.

Sir Brian Mawhinney, the Shadow Home Secretary, has written to Mr O'Brien demanding that the Government protect the local services of the people in Kent by imposing visa requirements on all Czech and Slovak citizens. Visa re-



No entry: a family waits to board a bus back to Slovakia after hearing that others had been refused permission to enter Britain

Losers and winners wait for their fate

Adrian Lee and Susan Bell report on the refugees on both sides of the Channel

CLUSTERED

in a disused home for the elderly, the latest batch of 19 asylum-seekers to arrive in England knew they were the lucky ones. In Calais, 50 Czech and Slovak Gypsies, including 30 children, woke up from a night on the ferry terminal floor after being refused entry to Britain.

Two families at Calais decided to accept an offer of free transport home, but others have now opted to seek political asylum in France. Although they have little chance of success, the French

authorities are powerless to move them on, as they have the right to stay within the EU's open-frontier area for three months.

A weary French immigration official said: "All their passports were issued within the last few weeks. We get the clear impression that it suits their Government to get rid of these people."

Milan, 34, the Calais group's self-appointed spokesman, cradling his three-year-old daughter, Barbova, said: "All we want is to work freely and for our

kids to be able to go to school without being afraid."

He was refused entry to Britain with his wife and five children, and claimed that most of the group had no idea what they were doing when they agreed to sign deportation papers.

In Margate, some of the 19 women and children spending their first full day in England described how they watched documentary on their compatriots' lifestyle in Britain and immediately began selling furniture to buy travel tickets. They said that they were waved through Germany and France, where only cursory checks of their passport were made.

The group comes mainly from Brno, in the east of the

Czech Republic, where they claimed to have been evicted from an apartment block.

Natascha, 46, a street cleaner who travelled with her husband, Aladar, two daughters and six grandchildren, said: "The landlords said if we did not go voluntarily we would be on the streets."

"Nobody in our lives has treated us as well as the people here in England. People used to shout at us. You go to the gas chambers. We want to be treated to work here. I don't want to be rich, I want to be like the poor of England."

Jana, 37, is with her two children, aged 13 and 14, but her husband is one of seven men in the group being held by immigration officials. She

said: "We did not want to stop in Germany because there are skinheads there. It was only England."

The old people's home was shut in July when a boiler failed. It has been reopened at a cost £1,000 a day. Yesterday the children played happily with toys, given by Kent Social Services, and ate chicken burgers and chips for lunch. Extra nappies were ordered. Mattresses have been brought in to provide up to 100 places in the 43-room building, and an interpreter provided.

Staff prepared for a further 30 arrivals last night and said that two teenagers had to be prevented from going out, drenched in aftershave, a few hours after arrival.

Lifestyle is worth more than pay, say students

By DAVID CHARTER

HIGH-FLYING students are turning their backs on careerism and demanding that employers give them more chance to enjoy life, an international survey showed yesterday.

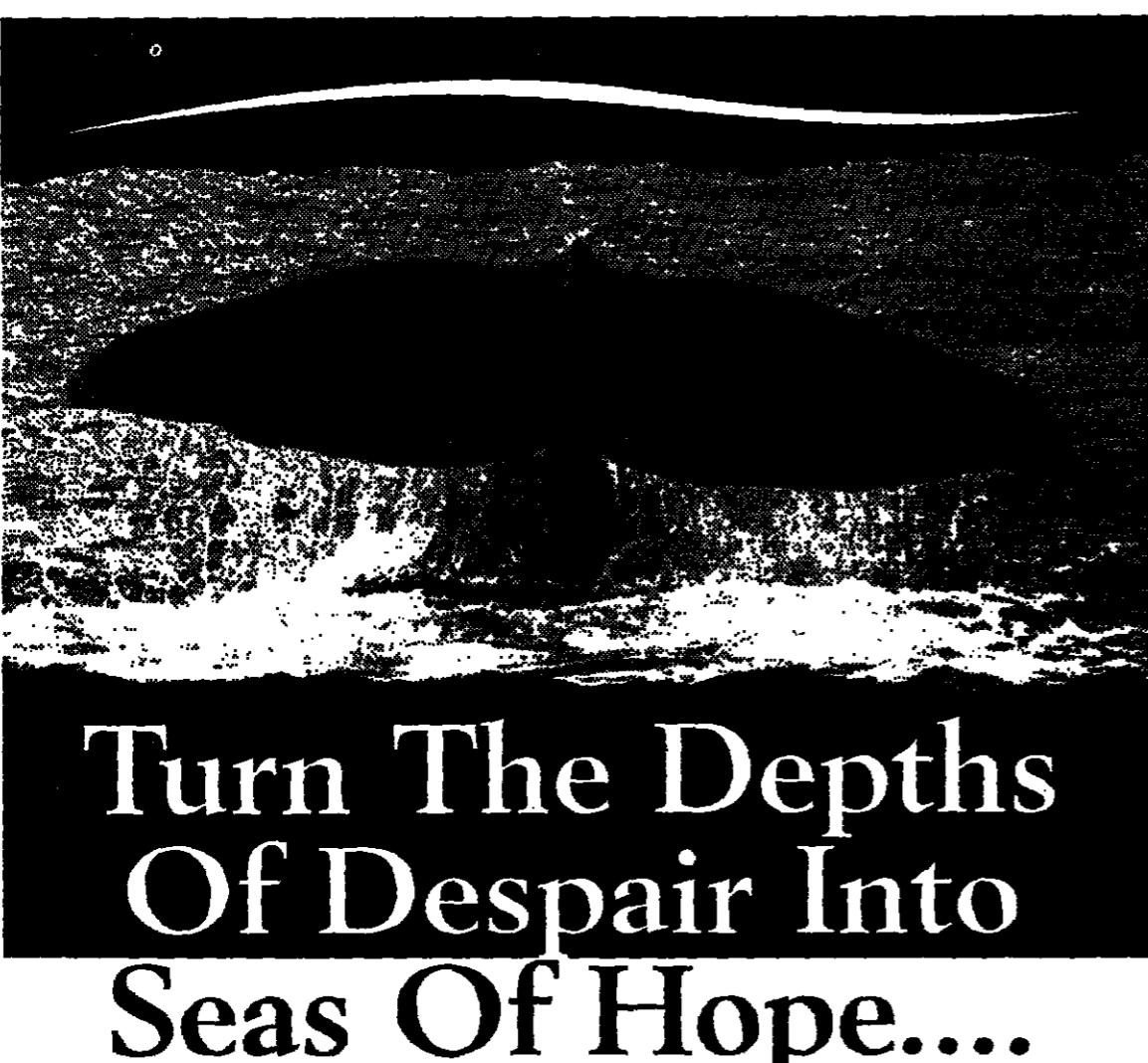
British students said that a rewarding life outside work was more important than pay and promotion. With graduates enjoying a boom in job prospects, they appear to be at the forefront of a global trend towards "achieving a balanced lifestyle" as their top priority.

Some 1,200 students graduating from business, accounting, economics and marketing courses were questioned by Coopers & Lybrand for WFD, a lifestyle consultancy for employers. The British students went to the London School of Economics and Manchester and Oxford universities.

Their peers in the United States cited salary as their main incentive but, in all but one of the ten countries surveyed, students said lifestyle was one of their top two priorities. The exception was South Korea.

Given a range of 14 options, 45 per cent of the international sample chose "achieving a balanced lifestyle and having a rewarding life outside of work" as one of their three future career goals. In second place overall, chosen by 33 per cent, was "building a sound private financial base", and third, chosen by 28 per cent, was "achieving a position where I can work and travel internationally".

Liz Bargh, chief executive of WFD, said: "The onus is on employers to find the flexibility to meet both their business goals and their employees' needs. As unemployment falls, competition to attract and retain the best employees will intensify."



Turn The Depths Of Despair Into Seas Of Hope....

More than 1000 whales will be brutally killed in the next 12 months.

This week, the International Whaling Commission (IWC), meets in Monaco to debate the future of the world's remaining whales.

Eleven years after the IWC agreed a moratorium on commercial whaling, Norway and Japan are 'bending the rules' to catch an ever-increasing number of whales.

Norway exempted itself from the moratorium and ignores the wishes of its neighbours in the European Union who stopped whaling long ago. Japan is defying the wishes of the nations of the world by catching whales for so-called "scientific" purposes in the Southern Ocean sanctuary.

On behalf of IFAW's 500,000 supporters in the UK we encourage the establishment of a Global Ocean Sanctuary to protect whales in all waters.

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HOME NEWS 5

27

Bride saves her new husband as boat explodes

By PAUL WHITTAKER

A BRIDE saved her husband's life after in a speedboat exploded on their West Indies honeymoon. Stuart Wright was thrown unconscious into the water. His wife Ann, watching from the shore, swam into the burning sea and kept him afloat until rescuers arrived.

Two British police officers who were due to marry today also suffered serious injuries in the blast, which happened just 20 yards from the resort of Halcyon in St Lucia. Two scuba guides, a Swiss-born translator, and an American holidaymaker were killed.

Eyewitnesses said the boat exploded when the engine was switched on, flinging the passengers 30ft into the air. Police are still trying to determine the cause of Sunday's blast, but it is believed a mechanical problem is to blame.

Ann Wright, 36, from



Deborah Till: injured with husband-to-be

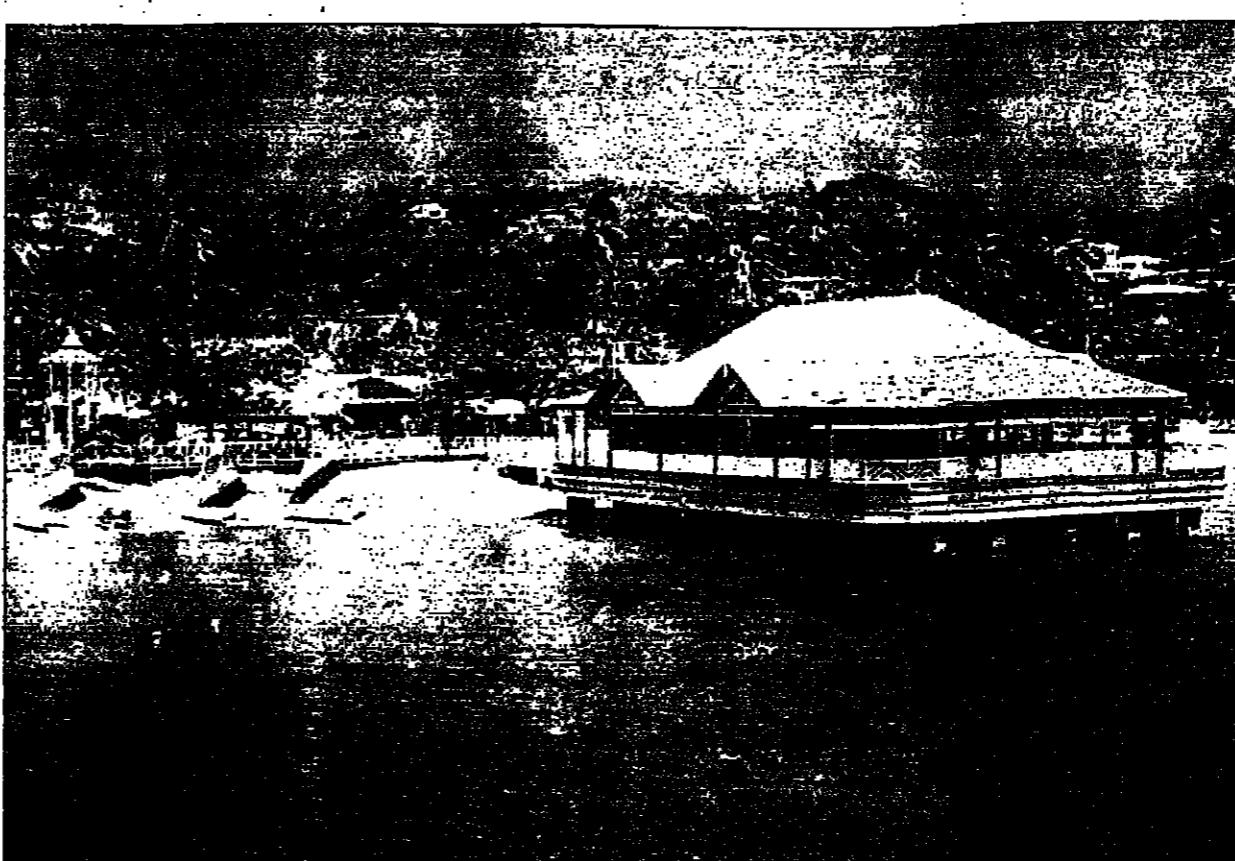
Worthing, Hampshire, had waved to her husband from the beach as he boarded the boat for a scuba diving trip with other holidaymakers from the £1,000-a-week resort run by the Sandals holiday company. After the blast, she

found him floating face down, but turned him over and held his head above water.

Two Staffordshire police officers, Detective Constable Neil Daniel, 30, and Sergeant Deborah Till, 29, both from Cannock, were among seven people injured. The others injured were Sandals staff members, three Americans and a German. They were airlifted to a hospital on the nearby French island of Martinique.

Everyone on board was said to have received cuts from glass fibre shards that were embedded in their skin, and many had fractures. Mr Wright, 34, regained consciousness early yesterday after an operation to reset his shoulder and broken arm. The police officers, who reportedly had suspected spinal injuries, both underwent surgery and were listed as being in a stable condition last night.

John Giffard, the Chief Con-



The Halcyon resort in St Lucia: holidaymakers on the beach saw the speedboat explode just after it had set off

stable of Staffordshire, said that there had been initial fears Ms Till may have been paralysed. "Since then she has regained movement in her legs and upper body. Members of the force are devastated as they are both super officers.

The real sadness is they went out there for happiness and to get married."

Ann Wright, a customer service consultant, and Stuart, a production manager, were married at a Farnham on October 11. Her father,

Kenneth Sanders, said yesterday: "Ann was very brave and there's no doubt that she saved Stuart's life. Stuart is seriously injured, and it is a very worrying and distressing time."

Gordon Stewart, the chair-

£7,000 for bus driver fired after assault

By PAUL WILKINSON

A BUS driver fired after making a citizen's arrest on a violent woman passenger was awarded nearly £7,000 yesterday in compensation. David Cocking held on to the woman while he drove his bus to the depot.

The 18-year-old woman, who had refused to pay a 60p fare, spat food in his face, scratched, bit and punched him, knocked off his glasses and tried to grab his testicles. But Mr Cocking, 31, was told at the depot that he had technically assaulted the passenger, held her against her will and driven without due care and attention.

An industrial tribunal in Sheffield decided unanimously that Mr Cocking, of Wath upon Dearne, was dismissed unfairly.

The tribunal decided that he was 20 per cent to blame for his dismissal, but did not regard his driving as dangerous. He was awarded £6,839.60 for unfair dismissal and loss of past and future earnings.

Valuable artefacts fall foul of ivory ban

By A STAFF REPORTER

TWO ancient carvings sent to Britain to be valued at Sotheby's are liable to forfeiture because they are made of ivory, the High Court said yesterday.

The court ruled that items similar to the 2,000-year-old figures were open to seizure under an EU trade ban designed to protect present elephant populations and other endangered species.

Cherie Booth, QC, appearing for the owner, argued: "It is hard to see how many elephants are going to be saved by prohibition of this ivory, which is thousands of years old. Those elephants from which the ivory came are well beyond protection," she said.

But Lord Justice Ian Kennedy said that the Commissioners of Customs and Excise had been legally justified in applying for seizure under domestic regulations enacting the European ivory ban. The judges refused the owner's lawyers permission to take the case to the Court of Appeal, although they can still appeal directly.

The lawyers argue that the case has importance for the whole European community. The carvings cannot be confiscated at present because their owner, Sadruddin Hashwani, a Pakistani hotelier, had them returned to his homeland when he ran into legal difficulties in Britain.

But his solicitor, Sarosh Zaibulla, said the judgment could deter people abroad from sending artefacts to this country for valuation.

The carvings, thought to depict two dancers, were excavated in Afghanistan and once kept in a Kabul museum.

Champion rower is rejected by Oxford

By MICHAEL ROSEWELL

A WORLD champion rower and Boat Race veteran has lost his place at Oxford University on academic grounds.

Tim Foster, 27, was elected president of the Oxford University Boat Club this summer after stroking the Dark Blue crew that was beaten narrowly by Cambridge in March. His departure from St Cross College will be seen by many as proof that Oxford is determined to erase the perception that it makes academic allowances for sportsmen.

Foster, who with Steve Redgrave, Matthew Pinsent and James Cracknell won gold in the four for Great Britain at the world championships last month, had finished a one-year diploma in social studies at St Cross and wanted to take a sports-related psychology course.

The college seemed agreeable, he said. But unfortunately my ideas did not fit in with what they could offer.

Steve Royle, Oxford's director of rowing, said: "The faculty was very interested in Tim's projected course of study, but felt that more work was required before acceptance."

Foster, who will now take a masters' degree at Brunel University in Uxbridge, West London, said he was disappointed at being unable to stay at Oxford. "People said to me you won't have any problem because of your rowing. The reality is that people look at rowers and say they are not going to do any work. It is just not nice. Some of the guys I rowed with this year were prime students. They did their rowing and then went off to work."

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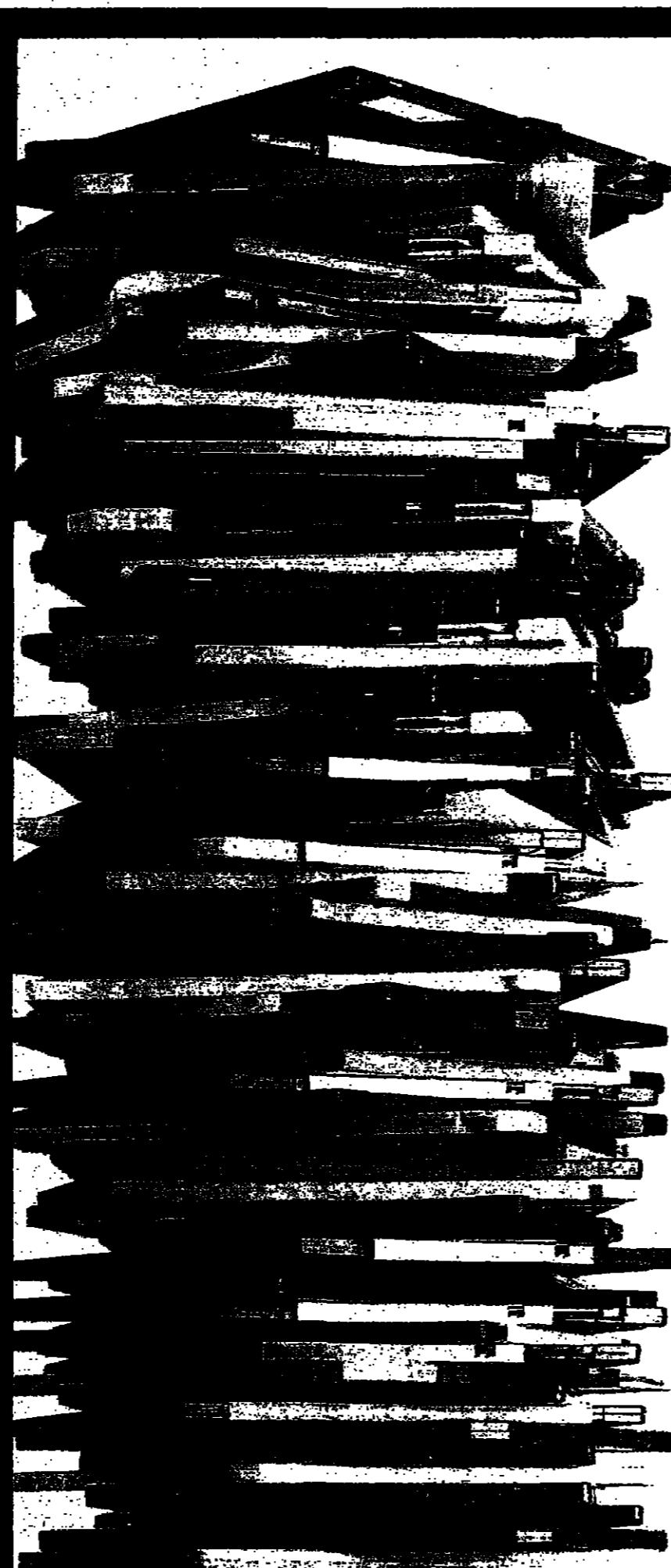
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A flow of good ideas.

Rector 'wanted lover and her friend in bed'

A WOMAN let a friend use her home for a love affair with a clergyman, a court heard yesterday, but she drew the line when she was invited to join in their bedroom sessions.

Jane Cook, a counter clerk at the local building society office, said that she disapproved of the relationship between her friend, Iris Green, a music teacher, and the Rev Clifford Williams. When she was told that the rector wanted her to join in, she said: "You've got to be joking."

Mrs Cook told an ecclesiastical court in Caernarfon, North Wales: "What Iris does is her business, what I do is my business and she knows I wouldn't do anything like that. She is my friend and I support her in what she wants to do. I did tell her on numerous occasions that the relationship was not good for her, but she makes her own decisions."

Mr Williams, 49, a father of three, is answering four

Building society woman says she lent home for affair, but declined to join in. Russell Jenkins reports

charges of giving "just cause for scandal or offence". He denies an adulterous six-year affair with Mrs Green, 56, a member of his parish at Benllech, Anglesey. He also denies an improper relationship with another married parishioner, Anne Williams.

Mrs Cook said that Mrs Green had given music lessons to her son, and had a key to her house at Tregarth, near Bangor, after doing cleaning and ironing for her. Mrs Green was said to have confided in her younger friend about the affair, and asked whether she could use the house because the clergyman did not want his car to be seen on her driveway. Mrs Cook admitted that she had never actually

seen them together at her home, but she believed they had visited it.

"Iris had told me quite a lot of detail about the relationship. She does not tell lies. I have no reason to believe that wasn't true from what I saw. I believe it to be true."

"She said he had mentioned he would have liked the two of us to sleep with him. I wasn't prepared to do that. In any case, I thought it was rather amusing actually. We both thought it was highly amusing."

Mrs Cook recalled meeting Mr Williams when he called at Mrs Green's house in Tyny-Gongl, Anglesey, and thought it odd that her friend should sit at his feet by the

sofa. The clergyman ruffled Mrs Green's hair in a gesture that Mrs Cook described as possessive, rather than affectionate. "I thought it wasn't a good relationship."

Tapes of answerphone messages, allegedly left by Mr Williams on Mrs Green's telephone, were played to the court. One recording, catching the speaker's Welsh accent, said: "I just rang up to say good night, love you."

Another read: "Hello, mine hotspot, how are you today? I have missed you a lot. I cannot wait to see you more, so I'll ring back this evening. OK. I love you."

In the third tape, the speakers are arguing heatedly. Mrs Green is allegedly berating Mr Williams for spending so much time at the home of Anne Williams. The man tells her: "That's stupid ... absolutely paranoid."

Mrs Green then says: "If I

spent a fraction of the time with another man, you would be absolutely paranoid. You

are a liar. Go and stick with darling Anne. You can't stay away from her." The man says: "Shut up."

Mrs Green repeats: "You

stick to your darling Anne"

twice before they say their

goodbyes and hang up. The

voice on several of the tapes

was identified as that of Mr

Williams by an expert linguist

and two church colleagues.

Peter Wright, a former senior lecturer in English dialects at Salford University, said he came to the conclusion that "unfortunately, it was

Clifford's voice".

The hearing continues.



Anne Williams: she was the subject of an argument in taped conversations

The friends and the rector: Jane Cook, left, said she believed that Iris Green, right, who had a spare key, had used her home for trysts with the Rev Clifford Williams

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

SCIENTISTS in Scotland have urged caution in the introduction of genetically modified crops after discovering that they could harm ladybirds.

Nick Birch and a team from the Scottish Crop Research Institute in Dundee found that female lady-

birds ate aphids that had fed on genetically modified potatoes laid fewer eggs and lived only half as long as the average. The team tested a potato plant that had been modified to produce a natural insecticide that discouraged aphids from feeding on them.

The team found that the modified potatoes did indeed suffer reduced

attack by aphids in greenhouse conditions. The reduction, of 50 per cent, was useful but insufficient on its own, so it was important that ladybirds, the natural predators of aphids, also did their work.

The team says in the annual report of the SCRI that the ladybirds continued to eat the aphids so it was clear that there had been no change

in the palatability of the aphids. However, once the ladybirds mated, the females laid fewer eggs, and the number failing to hatch in the first week was almost three times higher — 9.2 on normal potatoes, compared with 2.9 on the genetically modified potatoes.

When males that had eaten

aphids from the transgenic potatoes were mated with normal females, four times as many unfertilised eggs resulted. The females lived only 36 days if they had eaten aphids from the transgenic potatoes, rather than the normal 74 days. The lifespan of the males was unaffected.

These results suggest that introducing transgenic crops of this type

could have some unexpected consequences and that strategies for using them must be tested carefully first, under field conditions. The team suggests that planting transgenic and normal crops in adjacent fields could reduce any damaging effects on ladybirds. Longer-term experiments over several generations are now needed, they say.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Study into prejudice offends Muslims

A report into the rise of anti-Muslim prejudice in Britain will be launched today by the Home Secretary amid claims from some Muslims that it demeans their community.

The report, *Islamophobia: A Challenge to Us All*, was produced by an independent commission set up by the Runnymede Trust. It condemns bigoted views of Islam which see it as barbaric, sexist and primitive. But this week's *Muslim News* said the report was one-sided with an "uncritically Jewish" view of the Muslim community.

Thailand letter

The mother of Lena Young, 3, who was found begging on the streets of Thailand after the death of her father, an English actor, nearly four years ago, has received her first letter from social security officials. It follows publicity about her plight.

Royal portrait

An enamel of George III as Prince of Wales, unseen by the public for 250 years, has been sold at Christie's to a museum for £128,000. It is one of only five examples of miniatures painted by Jean-Etienne Liotard, the 18th-century Swiss artist.

Fell walker dies

A middle-aged woman fell 250ft to her death as she and her boyfriend were walking on Birk Fell near Seatwaite in the Lake District. Sue Belcher, a mother of two of Riddlesden, West Yorkshire, was an officer with Bradford City Council.

Pigeon's medal

A Dickin Medal — the "animal VC" — from 1943 is to be sold at Billingshurst, West Sussex, on November 10 for an estimated £3,500. It was awarded to a pigeon that had helped to rescue a ditched air crew by delivering a message to its base 100 miles away.

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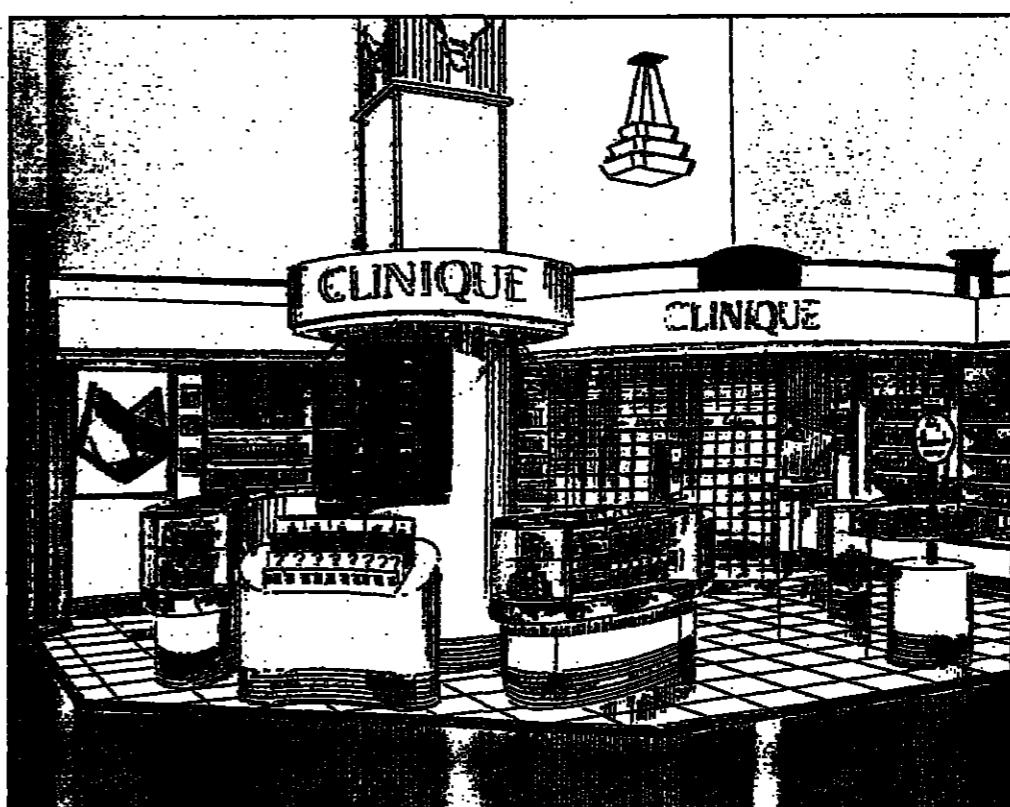
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Prince outlines role for alternative therapies

Ian Murray on a call for health professionals to take the use of complementary therapy seriously

THE Prince of Wales last night launched a national debate into the role of complementary medicine. In a lecture at St James's Palace, he outlined his idea for using alternative therapies alongside conventional medicine to create "more patient-centred healthcare".

He said that tremendous advances had been made in scientific and biological research, to the extent that conditions once thought untreatable could be cured. "But clearly this alone is not fulfilling all our healthcare needs as large numbers of people are paying to seek help from complementary medical practitioners. We simply cannot ignore what is a very real social phenomenon."

He said some complementary treatments seemed to work where orthodox ones

failed. "We need to create an environment in which patient-centred healthcare can flourish." His initiative is an attempt end confusion over the multitude of complementary and alternative medicines, establish through research which of them are effective, then work out regulations for their use in tandem with conventional medicines.

There are 143 professional organisations for complementary and alternative medicines, covering 14 disciplines including acupuncture and yoga. This has led to a confusing situation for doctors and the growing number of patients who ask to be referred to complementary medical practitioners. The confusion is compounded by there being at least 100 courses for training in com-



The Prince, left, shares his interest in alternative medicine with his grandfather, George VI, right

plementary and alternative medicines; many of them unaccredited by the organisations concerned.

Recent surveys have shown that 25 per cent of patients have tried complementary and alternative medicines, that 20 per cent of GPs have asked for some kind of training about them and that 40 per cent of GPs have made a referral to such a practitioner.

Complementary medicine sales are now well over £100 million a year and the amount sold is increasing by 15 per cent annually. The National Health Service pays for a tiny amount of alternative treatment — not more than about £1 million nationally.

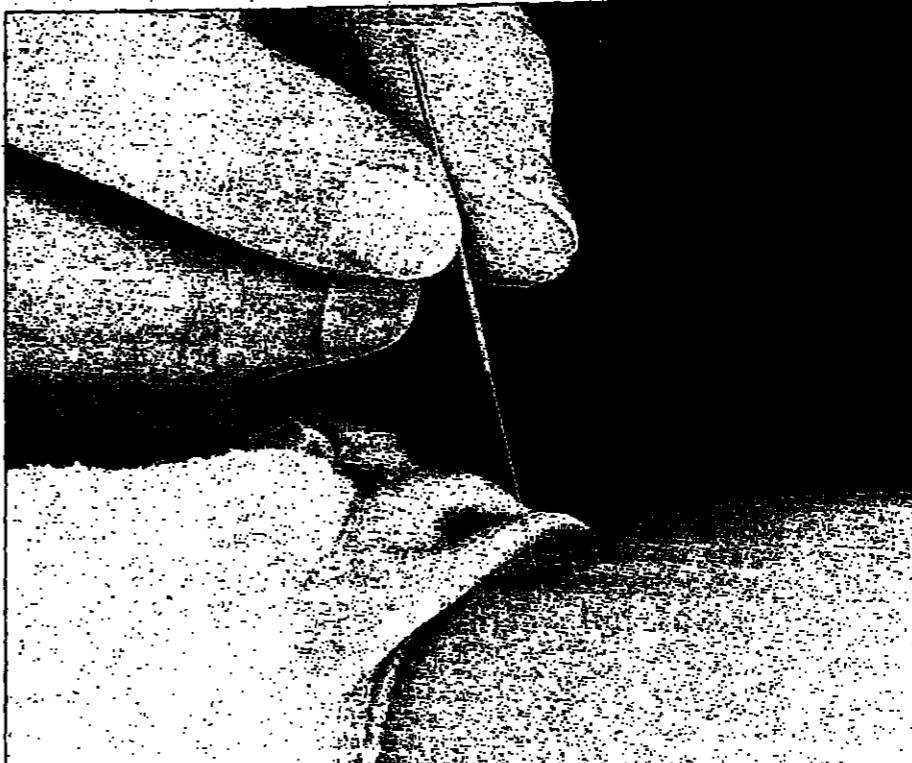
The Prince, who shares an interest in homoeopathy with his grandfather, George VI,

has his backache treated by a physiotherapist and an osteopath.

In February last year, the Prince decided to call a seminar of experts in the two kinds of medicine to see what could be done to integrate their treatment in the mainstream. The seminar established a steering group under the chairmanship of his assistant private secretary, Manon Williams, which co-ordinated four working parties looking into how to organise research, regulation, education, with training and delivery of an integrated service.

The Prince paid for the King's Fund, an independent think-tank on health policy, to examine the issue. Its report, published yesterday, sets out the issues to be explored at a conference next summer, that will aim to set a timetable for integrating the two streams of medicine.

□ *Integrated Healthcare: A Way Forward for the Next Five Years* The Foundation for Integrated Medicine, 83 Kingsway, London WC2B 6SD; £10



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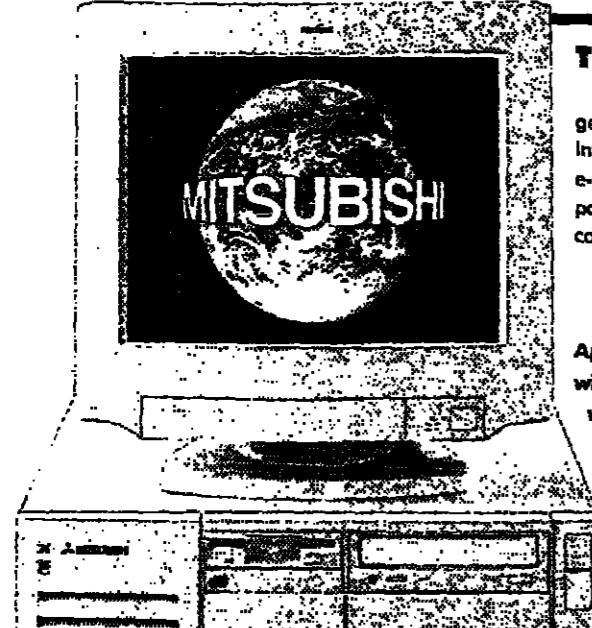
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Woman 'fought thief who tried to snatch Rolex'

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A STUDENT described in court how she fought back when two men tricked their way into her home, punched her and tried to steal her £2,000 watch.

Aphrodite Kefalea, 24, a finance student, wrestled Nathan Martin to the ground and held on to him after he punched her in the face in an attempt to escape. Southwark Crown Court was told, Martin and an accomplice who escaped allegedly visited Ms Kefalea's flat in South Kensington after seeing her advertisement offering the ladies' Rolex Oyster with a champagne diamond dial for £2,800.

Mr Martin, 19, of no fixed abode, denies theft and assault with intent to resist arrest and says he had taken no part in the theft.

Ms Kefalea bought two of the watches from Watches of Switzerland for £3,088 three years ago.

The jury heard that Mr Martin and his accomplice arrived at the flat on July 24 this year carrying an envelope with £2,500 scrawled on the outside and with a window showing that it contained cash. They told her they had the money and wanted to do a deal for the watch, it is alleged. However, Roger Smart, for the prosecution, told the jury:

"We say the envelope was dumbed up to make it look as if it contained £2,500. What it actually contained was one £20 note padded out behind with old newspaper."

After looking at the watch, the accomplice told Ms Kefalea that he needed to have the watch checked out at his shop in the Portobello Road area, the jury was told. The second man put the Rolex in his pocket while Mr Martin is alleged to have waved the envelope at the student and shouted: "This is my money. We have got the money."

Both men moved towards the door and as the accomplice fled down the stairs with the watch, pursued by Ms Kefalea's boyfriend, she grabbed hold of Mr Martin by his shirt collar.

She told the jury: "He was struggling to get away and then he turned to me and said, 'Let me go otherwise I'll punch you.' But I wouldn't let him go and so he gave me a punch on the right cheek."

Despite being dazed by the blow she again gave chase, grabbed the envelope and held on to her assailant. George Leonidakis, her boyfriend, came to her aid after failing to catch the accomplice and blocked the defendant's escape, the court was told.

The trial continues.

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Labour rebels risk expulsion

Four MEPs are refusing to toe the party line over PR for European elections. James Landale reports

FOUR Labour Euro-MPs are today expected to defy Tony Blair and risk expulsion from the party for their repeated public criticism of new internal selection procedures for the next elections to the European Parliament.

Party whips have given the rebels until 3pm to promise to abide by a new code of conduct that will bar them from talking to the media about the issue. If they refuse they face disciplinary action.

Yesterday Ken Coates (North Nottingham and Chesterfield) and Hugh Kerr (Essex West and Hertfordshire East) said that they would not sign up to the code of practice. Alex Falconer (Mid-Scotland and Fife) said he was seeking clarification and Michael Hindley (Lancashire South) was out of the country.

The four have condemned the selection procedures being planned by the party under the new system of proportional representation (PR) for the 1999 European elections. Details of the new arrangements



The four MEPs opposing the new code, from left: Ken Coates, Hugh Kerr, Michael Hindley and Alex Falconer

have yet to be announced, but Britain will be divided into 12 regions returning MEPs in proportion to the number of votes cast. Voters will choose a party rather than a candidate.

The rebels fear that party chiefs will use their newly-found control of the closed party lists to purge "old Labour" MEPs from the Strasbourg Parliament. They believe that candidates identified as old Labour will be placed low down on the lists, below younger, new Labour candidates, greatly reducing their chances of being re-elected. They also object to being told to remain silent.

The code, agreed last month by the national executive and sent to all 62 Labour MEPs, says that they should support the party's manifesto plans for PR and no member shall give statements to the media about any aspect of the party selection procedures which are a matter for internal party discussion and decision.

Mr Coates said: "I am not going to sign up to the code. I just don't recognise its legitimacy. It is not up to a political party to instruct its members whether to talk to the press about proportional representation or not."

Mr Kerr said: "We have got no intention of abiding by the

code." Mr Falconer would not reveal his intentions but repeated his attack on the code, which he said was "draconian intrusion" into his civil liberties.

In a letter to Mr Coates, Tom Sawyer, Labour's general secretary, insisted there was no question of gagging MEPs but said the code was "only trying to assist the good working relations between members and within the party".

Simon Murphy, Labour's Chief Whip in Strasbourg, wrote to the four MEPs yesterday urging them to toe the line or face "the commencement of disciplinary measures". This could include withdrawing the party whip, suspension or even expulsion.

Wayne David, leader of the European Parliamentary Labour Party, pulled out of a planned meeting with Mr Coates yesterday after the rebel MEP insisted on having a witness present. Mr David publicly dissociated himself from Mr Coates's position and insisted that the code of practice was sensible.

"If Ken Coates cannot bring himself to abide by the code of

practice, perhaps he should not be a member of the Labour Party," Mr David said. "His views are way out of step with today's Labour Party."

Edward McMillan-Scott,

leader of the Tory MEPs, said

that Labour was "spinning out

of control" in Europe.

"Labour's code of conduct not

only reveals the control-freak

instinct of Tony Blair and

Peter Mandelson but also is

completely unworkable," he

said. "Of course Labour MEPs

are going to talk about PR for

the Euro-elections ... they

are talking about little else."

Downing St can help to show who is saying what

BY ALL means shoot the messenger or make him (hardly ever her) a public figure. But please, don't believe it will make much difference to the activities of the ludicrously titled spin-doctors — who generally treat the subtlety or the professionalism that the term implies.

Whenever a story goes seriously awry, there is usually a call for the replacement of the lobby system by White House-style, on-the-record news conferences. Not only is this a naive view of what happens in America, but it also confuses the regular collective briefings with the Prime Minister's press spokesman with the activities, including unattributable contacts, of lobby journalists at Westminster.

Whatever the format of Downing Street briefings, journalists will always gather information on an unattributable basis. This enables politicians to talk more freely than when they are publicly on-the-record and journalists to provide greater insights.

Delairie, the great Editor of *The Times* in the mid-19th century, had close and mutually beneficial contacts with Palmerston, while later Prime Ministers have regularly complained of leaks to the press (and have often been guilty themselves).

Accurate accounts of the Attlee Cabinets were later traced to the weekly teas which the wife of Sir Stafford Cripps, the Chancellor, had with a Sunday columnist.

Of course, an unattributable system is open to abuse. A spokesman or a minister floats an idea which can be formally defined. In position, Labour became adept at offering such "deniable" spin on speeches and policy initiatives which went well beyond what had been formally announced.

The absence of direct attribution can also be exploited by lazy or inventive journalists to exaggerate the significance of a story, and importance of the source.

A senior minister or official can become a term of art rather than formal hierarchy.

A marginal figure can be presented as someone

close to Tony Blair. That is the "problem" which Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's press spokesman, is seeking to address.

The nature of the regular

Downing Street briefings has anyway changed and they are now attributed to either Downing Street sources or the Prime Minister's spokesman, rather than previous much vaguer phrases. In practice, Mr Campbell, like his immediate predecessors, already treats the sessions as on-the-record. A further shift to the American practice of naming the spokesman and even perhaps producing transcripts of daily briefings is desirable but would not be a revolution.

Moreover, as in America, unattributable contacts would continue on an individual basis between ministers, their advisers and the media. A change in the attribution of Downing Street briefings would not have prevented the confusion of recent weeks over government policy on the single currency, though it might have given greater authority to official denials of stories inspired by unnamed sources.

During nearly three years

**RIDDELL
ON POLITICS**

in America during the Bush era, I was struck by how similar the two systems really are. On revisiting Washington last weekend, I read political stories in the main papers full of references to unnamed senior White House or administration officials. James Baker, the former Secretary of State, once appeared as himself, a senior State Department official and an administration source during a single briefing.

What matters for readers is to know the weight and legitimacy of a story. Is it an authorised leak by a minister, an exercise in informal, and deniable, kite-flying, or merely informed, or semi-informed, speculation by a journalist? We have seen all three recently. Although there will never be a world where everything is said on the record, there is scope to tighten up attribution in Downing Street and the main departments so that journalists are forced to be more disciplined and less concerned with "spin", so readers know who is saying what.

PETER RIDDELL

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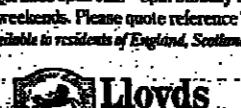


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Villagers relive terror of night massacres

The army may not be perpetrating the attacks, blamed on fundamentalists, but does little to stop them, Anthony Loyd reports from Bentala

THE teacher seemed to collapse as he bent down beside the verge. He stopped flapping his arms distractingly and instead folded them across his chest like batwings and his face jerked towards the black splashes of blood up the side of the wall.

"This is where Randa landed," he said quietly. "They caught her on the balcony, cut her throat, and threw her off the edge. She was six years old, my daughter's friend. Look at this.... He produced a passport-size photograph from his wallet. It showed a blonde-haired child smiling awkwardly at the camera.

"I keep it to remember her by. She spent a long time staying with us. She wasn't the only one to die in this building. Four families had sheltered here that night. All were slain. The dead in this house alone could be counted in dozens."

The wind howled down of the Chrea mountain range behind him, spinning small dust devils and torn plastic bags across the earthen alleys of Bentala, an Algerian village.

The bleak poverty of the place only added to the misery of the scene. Ragged, snotty-nosed children scurried through the burnt-out houses, and the dried pools of blood, the smell and flies suggested that only a token effort had been made to clear up after the massacre there four weeks ago.

It was a relatively modern brick settlement for 2,000 peasant farmers and their dependants until last month when a group of up to 150 armed men entered it at midnight.

"For four and a half hours they moved through the village at will, killing everyone they could," said the teacher, Ali. "I ran out when I heard the first shots and saw a group of about four or five of them walking towards my house.

They were dressed in long chemise shirts and cloaks, and some wore scarves wrapped around their faces. Not all of them had guns. Some just had knives and axes. I ran back inside and gathered my wife and five children. A neighbour was firing at them from his roof and we escaped to his house."

All was lucky. His neighbour was one of the men known locally as a "patriot", a civilian armed by the Government as part of a local defence team to guard against the degradations of fundamentalist terrorists based in the nearby mountains. The patriot had a lot of ammunition.

They caught her on the balcony, cut her throat, and threw her off. She was six

and managed to hold off the marauders who instead turned their attention to easier pickings.

The house where Randa had taken refuge had no protection but a chained wrought-iron gate across the front door. The terrorists spent a long time blowing off the railings one-by-one with automatic fire before entering it and butchering everyone.

They left slightly before dawn, moving back to the hills. The carnage that remained behind them was extreme by any standards. They had torched every house they could. Few of the 217 dead had been shot. Most, the majority elderly men, women and children had had their throats cut. Some had been beheaded. Thirty-four young women were missing, taken away as

booty. "It was the second tragedy I had suffered in a month," Ali added.

"Three weeks previously the village of Sidi Rais had been raided in a similar way. I teach at the primary school there. So when I turned up to work one morning I found half my pupils had been killed. Then I lose my neighbours."

I had already seen Sidi Rais. Its catalogue of survivor's horror stories was almost identical to that of Bentala: mutilation, beheading, burning, evisceration. One man told of having seen his two-year-old daughter thrown from a rooftop before his wife had her throat cut in front of him.

The terrorists had tried to do the same to him, their knives cleaving through his hand as he put it up to protect his throat before crawling away to escape.

Two of the agricultural villages sitting on the Mitidja plain south of Algiers 15 miles away, Bentala and Sidi Rais had found themselves in a template of land that has become known as "the Bermuda triangle" to residents in the capital.

As the six-year-old Algerian war had progressed it is this zone of territory, at the foot of the Chrea, that has borne the brunt of massacre and atrocity, as the government forces battle with Islamic guerrillas.

The war began in 1992 after the incumbent secular Government of President Zeroual cancelled the second round of elections which the Islamic Salvation Front, the FIS, was poised to win. Since then a shadowy guerrilla war has cost over 70,000 lives in fighting between the government forces and the armed wing of the FIS, the AIS, until a splinter group, the GIA (Armed Islamic Group), emerged as the newest and most vicious terror group, whose continuing atrocities

shamed even the AIS into a ceasefire last month.

The Government's version of events is simple. The GIA, a fundamentalist faction armed and indoctrinated by Sudan and international terror organisations, is carrying out night-time massacres as part

of a desperate last-ditch attempt to win support through fear. Cornered in their mountain refuges by a revamped government army, the presidency insists, as it has done for years, that the guerrillas are a spent force on the edge of defeat. The reality is that the

Government has little real support anywhere in Algeria, and has conducted itself with scant regard for human rights. Amnesty International reports testify to a litany of detentions without trial, torture, summary execution and "disappearances". Ironically

the majority of massacres seem to occur in areas where support for the Islamists is strongest. Though it seems unlikely that the army are perpetrating the bulk of these killings themselves they do little to prevent them.

Sidi Rais was little over a mile from the nearest army barracks.

In spite of all the gunfire and burning it took troops three hours to reach the village. "There are good reasons for that," a captain told me coldly. "But it is better we do not discuss them now."



The agony of Algeria: women weep after attackers butchered up to 200 people in Bentala, a southeastern suburb of the capital, Algiers

Four murdered in mosque

Algiers: Gunmen yesterday shot dead a candidate for an Islamist-leaning party running in local elections, party sources said. Three supporters of the Movement of a Peaceful Society (MPS) also died in the shooting inside a mosque in the remote el-Oued province.

About 15 million Algerians are eligible to vote in tomorrow's polls to choose members of 1,500 local and 48 provincial councils. Nearly 80,000 candidates are running.

The murdered MPS politician is the ninth candidate in

these elections to be killed. No group has claimed responsibility but the Government blames Muslim rebels for the deaths.

The MPS had to change its name and modify some of its policies earlier this year. In line with a law banning the use of Islam in politics, it is now a junior partner in the Government of President Zeroual.

The municipal elections are the first local polls since the outbreak of a Muslim insurgency in 1992. The Algeria Army and security forces have been mobilised to pro-

tect the 70,000 voting precincts.

An armed group also killed five farmers who were working in their fields, hospital sources said yesterday. A group of ten attackers cut the throats of four farmers and killed the other near Laâlaam, a village 92 miles east of Algiers, the sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity. Security forces uncovered three bombing operations and seized weapons allegedly belonging to Islamic militants near the town of Tlemcen. (AP/Reuters)

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Papon saved Jews says trial historian

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE historian who helped to expose the alleged Nazi collaborator Maurice Papon 16 years ago has come forward to claim that the man accused of sending hundreds of Jews to their deaths saved many from the gas chambers.

Michel Bergès told *Le Monde* that recent research had convinced him that the prosecution case was flawed and that M Papon, 87, who is charged with complicity in the Nazi genocide as a senior official of the Vichy regime, was being made into "a political myth".

M Bergès, who is due to testify in the continuing trial in Bordeaux, was among the first to uncover M Papon's wartime role as secretary-general of the Gironde, but he now says that subsequent research has raised doubts over the extent of his guilt.

"Papon has been made responsible for all the deportations of Jews because he



A lawyer for M Papon shows the sub-machinegun, said to have been a present from grateful Israelis

signed a lot of documents. They have made him into a media creation, clumsily deformed him into someone responsible for the entire mechanism," M Bergès said.

The historian claimed that M Papon had worked with Joseph Cohen, the chief rabbi of Bordeaux, and Pierre Garat, head of the Jewish Affairs Office, to remove names from lists of Jewish deportees.

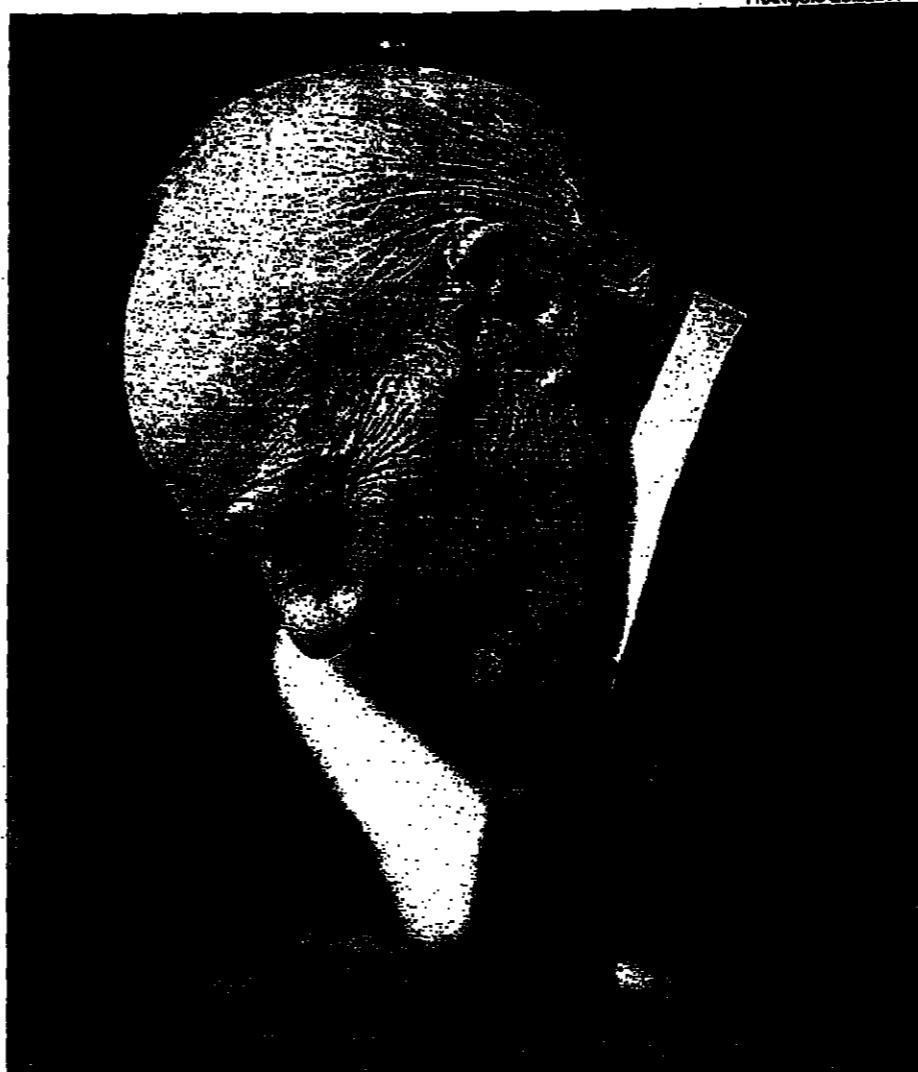
M Bergès said that documentary evidence, ignored by the prosecution, showed that M Papon had been caught removing 130 names from his

bosses. "I am categorical on this matter and I put my credibility as an analyst on the line. Maurice Papon did not furnish lists of people to be arrested."

Lawyers representing the families of M Papon's alleged victims reacted angrily to M Bergès's assertions, saying he should have waited until he was called to testify. The historian's claims have bolstered the defence case, and added an extraordinary new twist to a trial that even M Papon claimed was a "forgone conclusion".

In Bordeaux, a lawyer for M Papon presented in court yesterday a sub-machinegun allegedly given to M Papon by Israeli officials for helping them in a secret mission.

The weapon was presented to back up a claim by M Papon that he was not an anti-Semite. The lawyer said the gun was given to M Papon "by the Israeli authorities to thank him for services rendered to the state of Israel", including a secret 1948 operation when he was prefect in Corsica.



Maurice Papon leaves a restaurant on his way to the Bordeaux court yesterday

Blair mulls China visit

BY MICHAEL BINNION
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

TONY BLAIR yesterday told Tung Chee-Hwa, the chief executive of Hong Kong, that he was "determined to start a new chapter in Britain's relations with China", and said he was considering a visit to Beijing next autumn.

In a 45-minute meeting at Downing Street described as "warm and friendly" the two reviewed progress in Hong Kong since the handover to China in July. Mr Tung said things were going well and both China and the Hong Kong people were keen to make a go of the new situation.

On his first visit to London since the handover, the Beijing-appointed head of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region spent an hour discussing political and economic developments and briefed Mr Blair on the proposed elections for a new Legislative Council.

The message he received, which will be repeated today in talks with Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, is that Britain is pleased with the way things have gone. The pessimists' predictions of demonstrations, crackdowns and a heavy hand by Beijing have largely failed to materialise.

The Foreign Office said the elections were a step back from those in 1995. But a spokesman added:

"If they are free, open, fair and reflect the wishes of the Hong Kong people, that is the important part."

■ Hong Kong: Hong Kong said two new Hollywood films - *Seven Years in Tibet* and *Kundun* - which portray the life of Tibet's Dalai Lama and which have upset Beijing, are within the law and can be shown here. (Reuters)



Church at Assisi to re-open

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

PART OF the Basilica of St Francis at Assisi is due to re-open at the weekend, a month after the double earthquake which killed four people inside the great 13th-century building and damaged ceiling frescoes by Cimabue and Giotto.

Only the Lower Church will be opened, with a solemn Mass on Sunday. Father Nicola Giandomenico, the bursar at Assisi, said surveys showed that damage to the Lower Church, which contains the tomb of St Francis, had been relatively slight.

Most of the damage was to the Upper Church, where the vaulted ceiling collapsed on September 26, killing two friars and two surveyors. Antonio Paolucci, the former Culture Minister who is in charge of the restoration, said the Upper Church would not re-open until 2000.

Father Giandomenico gave a warning that if there were further strong tremors this week, the re-opening of the Lower Church would be postponed. There were several minor tremors yesterday.

This week engineers have been reinforcing the walls of the basilica, and constructing scaffolding inside the Upper Church to shore up the ceiling and enable restoration of the damaged frescoes to begin.

Tung: Britain happy with his progress

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Blair
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US police turn theft inquiry into a fine art

AN OUTLANDISH tale of art theft — whose cast of characters includes wartime Soviet soldiers, an unsavoury assortment of Azerbaijanis, the New York police, and an apparently dim-witted Japanese businessman — entered its final chapter yesterday at a federal court in Manhattan.

Details of the criminal conspiracy are almost as compelling as the masterworks in question, which include paintings by Rembrandt and Albrecht Dürer, and which are valued at more than \$10 million (£6.3 million).

On Friday, Masatsuga Koga, 60, a Japanese entrepreneur of dubious provenance, pleaded guilty to charges of attempting to sell the stolen paintings, belonging to the Bremen Museum in Germany, where they were last seen in 1943. He was remanded in custody. *The New York Times* has reported that he has also agreed to cooperate with federal prosecutors.

Mr Koga was arrested last month at a plush suite in Manhattan's Grand Hyatt Hotel, after he had arranged to meet a posse of New York policemen — posing as German art dealers — with a view to concluding a sale of the art. His "portfolio" comprised, among other paintings, Dürer's *Women Bathing* valued

An international trail links lost Old Masters,
writes Tunku Varadarajan

conservatively at \$6 million, and Rembrandt's *Standing Woman With Raised Hands* estimated to be worth about \$2 million.

On his arrest, and faced with the prospect of 15 years in prison, he told police that he had purchased the paintings from employees of the National Museum of Azerbaijan in Baku.

The transnational plot soon began to thicken. On October 7, police here arrested an Azerbaijani woman, Natavan Aleskerova, 43, after a car chase through the streets of Greenwich Village.

Diplomats at the Azerbaijani Embassy in Washington have protested against her arrest, describing her as a prominent lawyer from Baku. Her own lawyers have gone so far as to say that she is the "Madeleine Albright of Azerbaijan".

However, the police who found three passports on her and vast quantities of cash in



Two of the masterpieces recovered by police in a New York sting: a Rembrandt, left, and a Dürer

More Chinese take up religion

Beijing: There has been a dramatic growth in religious belief in China despite repeated crackdowns, the New York-based Human Rights Watch said yesterday (James Pringle writes).

It says in a report that while sects are especially targeted, Beijing also tries to control Buddhism and Islam because

they provide a focus for opposition to Chinese rule in Tibet and Xinjiang. But the group says that since it issued a report five years ago there have been improvements, and despite persecution of Tibetans there has been a slight fall in arrests of those who worship in unregistered churches. The latest report comes in

advance of next week's visit by President Jiang Zemin to America, and after the release of a Beijing document last week saying it promotes, or tolerates, a wide rebirth of religious activities. But the Chinese report emphasises that religious freedom is circumscribed by priorities such as patriotism and ethnic unity.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Bonn expels envoy in drug case

BONN: Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, yesterday expelled Berenice Weah Reid, the First Secretary of the Liberian Embassy, and her family because of alleged involvement in a cocaine-smuggling ring (Roger Boyes writes). A Briton was also held. The Foreign Ministry confirmed that the Liberian citizen, Neville Reid, drew a loaded gun when police charged into his hotel room and caught him with 17 lb of cocaine. Mr Reid is the husband of the Liberian diplomat.

'Star wars' test

Washington: In a first space use of "star wars" technology a MIRACL laser beam was aimed at a satellite 260 miles away, the USAF said. Seconds longer and the satellite would have been destroyed.

Pirates kill 45

Kuala Lumpur: Forty-five sailors have been killed by pirates so far this year, compared with 26 in the same period last year, the International Maritime Bureau's Regional Piracy Centre said. (AP)

Identity success

Jerusalem: Despite pessimism about the Middle East peace process, Israel has given Yasir Arafat's Palestinian Authority the right to issue its own identity cards in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Rail tragedy

Bombay: Nine people were killed and 60 hurt when a building at a crowded railway station here collapsed. Two others died after being struck by a train as they fled from falling debris. (AP)

Playing safe

Hanoi: Vietnam has banned toy weapons for being dangerous and harmful to children. The ban covers bamboo and plastic swords, bows, rifles and grenade-shaped cigarette lighters. (Reuters)

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Clint copied husky voice of Monroe

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

CLINT EASTWOOD is about to feel the fury of a former lover, thanks to a book deal. According to Sondra Locke, his aggrieved partner of 13 years, Hollywood's most unshakeable icon of manliness modelled his screen voice on that of Marilyn Monroe, asked Ms Locke if she had flossed her teeth before having sex with her, and liked to be called "Daddy".

In *The Good, The Bad and the Very Ugly*, a memoir to be published next month, Ms Locke appears bent on pressing home a reported \$7 million (£43.5 million) court victory she won over Mr Eastwood last year. The book accuses him of waging a silent war against her as their relationship worsened, and of an evil betrayal after its acrimonious end.

Mr Eastwood, persuaded her to have two abortions while fathering two children by another woman without her knowledge, the book claims. It also alleges he bugged her telephone illegally, ended their relationship with a letter from his lawyer and offered no support when she was later stricken with breast cancer.

"For years after the breakup with Clint," Ms Locke writes, "I had struggled for understanding of who he really was behind the mask he had presented to me ... and how I had not been able to better anticipate his ultimate, evil betrayal of me."

A spokesman for Mr Eastwood has said that the star had no comment, "and no interest in this book". He will be hard-put to ignore it, however. Ms Locke has embarked on a promotional tour of eight American cities, beginning this week in Los Angeles.

Her book is subtitled "A Hollywood Journey" and it touches on her early career as an actress nominated for an Oscar for her supporting role in *Witness*.

The book paints a less wholesome picture of the star, now 67, as a real-life lover than he portrayed in the recent romantic hit *The Bridges of Madison County*.

Ms Locke was 20 when she met Mr Eastwood, then more than twice her age. She shared his jet-set existence for 13 years, appearing with him in *Every Which Way But Loose* and *Sudden Impact*, among other films.

By her account, the affair turned sour when she began directing her own films instead of co-starring in his.

She sued him last year for what she claimed was a secret deal between him and Warner Brothers to undermine her directing career.

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She sued him last year for what

Investment dressing

Fed up with your wardrobe, looks or personality? Try the image consultants who promise makeovers that also save time and money. Juliette Dominguez did

Once the domain of politicians, corporate executives and pop groups, image consulting has a new clientele: the professional middle class. Especially professional New Yorkers, who are united in their quest to look good, save time and, they are assured, "money in the long run". You can pick and choose from a long list of consultants, and from a range of services: do you want a "colour me beautiful" session, a wardrobe clear-out and shopping expedition, a personal shopper, or the consultant who claims that she can make over not just your wardrobe, but you personally, with lessons in etiquette and style? Using a consultant is an interesting concept, if you just want your wardrobe done and dusted and ready to wear (even if you do lose a bit of your own style in the bargain).

Subjecting myself to what was bound to be a humiliating experience (my wardrobe is a hotchpotch nightmare of mismatched everything), I enlisted the services of the image consultant Pamela Henry, 37. For \$250 she agreed to "do my colours" and rid my closet of any offending articles. She arrived on my doorstep armed with a huge swatch of colours and a determined look in her eye. She has been doing this for five years, and has seen women cry at throwing out beloved but bedraggled items. "You've no idea how much junk people keep in their closets."

Three hours later, it looked like a jumble sale in my bedroom. One half of the room was obscured by an increasing pile of undesirables — clothes that were either the wrong colour or shape for my "inverted triangle" 5ft 4in frame. Mostly, I agreed with her selection. Many of the items were far too small, or an unbecoming colour. For future purchases, she advised: "You have a great waist, so we want to show that. Wear jackets with some fitted detail, but not too long, as you'll look short. Angled pockets are useful, as that creates the illusion of the waist, and wear trousers with pleats at the front to distract attention from your stomach." All sensible, although pretty obvious, advice. I might not want to emulate Henry's own style, but she was sage enough. It had been a painful experience, but my newly slimline wardrobe did look uncluttered and well co-ordinated — and what a luxury to have someone else clear my closet.

Next on the list was Dominique Isbœque, 38, a consultant who offers a similar service. Sitting in her salon-like Upper West Side apartment, I was immediately impressed and inspired by her classic Parisian look — an Hermès scarf draped around a smart navy blazer. She looked the part — but then at her price range, she could afford to. Isbœque explained



"Every professional woman juggles three wardrobes; career, cocktail and casual. They all tend to get out of hand"

her philosophy that this was more than just a change of clothes. "The majority of those who see me are professionals going through some kind of life change. This could be a career change, or they might have been promoted in their job, and need the image to match that. Or it could be more personal, like a change in body weight, or a divorce, and they need to keep control of their image. It is a psychological process, where you're changing your attitude, your perceptions, and how others perceive you."

Isbœque took me in hand, and gave me a colour analysis and consultation (\$175 for 90 minutes) on what best flattered my figure. Both of these echoed exactly what Henry had told me. She offered to go

shopping with me (an extra \$300-\$750) to put together a winter wardrobe. This expedition would set me back \$3,500, but she assured me: "I do not have a minimum budget for my clients. But the larger the budget, the greater the potential of having the perfect wardrobe." She added that a 12-piece wardrobe could be put together for a more limited budget — say \$1,500.

Isbœque argues that after an initial outlay of \$250 for a full consultation (which includes wardrobe clearing) and her additional shopping service, you can "shop and dress with confidence, knowing that you've saved money and time. I suggest that people re-evaluate their personal self and identify every two years."

One of Isbœque's regular clients is Amanda Moore, 48, an international corporate lawyer who consults her at least twice a year. "Every professional woman juggles three wardrobes; career, cocktail and casual. They all tend to get out of hand. Dominique introduces new combinations from pieces I already have, and helps me to discard those that look bad. She reduces my wardrobe to its essence, and my own signature style. Shopping is such a pleasure because you're looking for things in a colour and style that you know will look good. It's investment dressing and saves an awful lot of time."

Those who haven't even time to go to a consultant can always use one of the department stores' personal shoppes.

Janet Mick, 27, is the director of client services at Henri Bendel in Manhattan. "Most of our clients are busy professionals who like to get in and get out as quickly as possible. Usually, they'll call and describe what they need, and I'll pull pieces ready for their arrival."

A regular client is Donna Whiting, 50, from Kentucky, who recently retired from the family betting business. "I will fly in at least four times a year to buy that season's wardrobe. My last trip was to buy my winter wardrobe, which was about \$6,000. It does save so much time, and it's great to have that personal attention." If I needed a change of clothes, or a whole wardrobe in a hurry, then this was a simple, cheap (you don't pay for the profit) and foolproof alternative.

If you want is a whole new you, then Camille Lavington, 51, a consultant who describes herself as a specialist in "executive enhancement", may be the answer. Hers is a service aimed at those who want to get ahead, but feel that they are hindered by their lack of social skills. She views each client as "a project" and charges about \$3,000. "I approach this from a holistic point of view. I will package you up and send you out, but I also put you through a psychological change when I'm doing it. It's a mind trip, starting from the inside and working your way out, packaging you so you're comfortable with the result."

Lavington takes her clients

Nigella Lawson

Beautiful reason not to strip

SERIOUSLY: how can anyone now be shocked by the idea of an Oxford undergraduate earning money as a stripper? Modesty is a defunct virtue, informing most people's lives as little as that other superannuated accomplishment watercolouring. We retain enough of a memory of decorum to enjoy the frisson of surprise. But it's just a mine, not rooted in any moral disarray.

Far from it those under a certain age would rather admire Melissa Butler for strutting her stuff at the Sunset Strip in Soho. For them, the stripper is not some sleazy figure, but a strong woman who owns her body and is happy with it: a woman who gets what she wants — money and applause — for revealing what she is.

In so far as modern wisdom goes, being a stripper is not about degradation but empowerment. Ms Butler's behaviour chimes so distinctly with the spirit of the age, her earnest defence of her behaviour shows its untrammeled introspection; her actions reveal its narcissistic exhibitionism. Anyway, walking about in hardly any clothes is nothing these days, just high street fashion: but being paid to take them off, that's really modern. This is know-your-price post-feminism writ large for every reading.

To be frank, I've often felt rather doubtful about modesty as it is. Too often, it's just vanity. Most people would take their clothes off if they felt they would look good naked. And who wouldn't wear the most minuscule of bras?

Not everyone can be a perfect physical specimen, but if you make children feel attractive, they won't need

modesty.

And so they are. But it

reveals only to encourage me

in my belief that the one thing

you have to do is to tell

children how beautiful they

are — almost until they get

bored with it. It's the ones

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Something rotten in the system

As evidence mounts that there is a crisis in Britain's childcare, Bill Frost examines the facts and tells the story of one victim

THE GOVERNMENT is to set up "hit squads" to investigate council social services departments as evidence mounts of a crisis in childcare. Claims of systematic sexual abuse at children's homes in North Wales, being heard at a tribunal near Wrexham, have deepened public disquiet. There is also concern that anonymity has been granted to alleged paedophiles in return for evidence.

The experts who chair such inquiries say they rarely prevent new tragedies. They claim that many investigations are an expensive waste of time and that recommendations are often ignored. Meanwhile, the young and vulnerable continue to suffer at the hands of those entrusted to care for them.

Even at the age of four, Sean knew that the woman's behaviour was unusual; his mother, who had died only weeks earlier, had never expected him to play such strange and disturbing games. He hated a stranger's hands roaming over his body, but there was nobody he could tell and none of the other boys at the council home seemed unduly bothered by the "games".

For the next 12 years, Sean and his three brothers, all taken into care when their mother died, endured an appalling catalogue of sexual abuse and mental cruelty at the hands of their house mother and other staff. Like other children there, they began to assume that such behaviour was normal, an expression of affection.

Just days after arriving at the home in Essex, where he had been placed by an East London council, Sean was sexually assaulted by his house mother. The memory angers him still. He stares at the point in the middle distance as he recalls the day she stripped him in her room.

"She fondled me first and then attempted to masturbate me. I couldn't understand why this was happening."

As the years passed, Sean came to dread weekends when the children were visited by "uncles" — strangers to him but men known to staff. They would demand sexual favours in return for sweets or other small presents.

"When I was about 12, a male member of staff raped me. I remember that the house mother washed my underwear afterwards, presumably to destroy evidence. By then I was terribly confused, and so were all the other children who had been abused: We had come to regard what happened at that terrible place as perfectly normal, yet instinctively we knew it was wrong."

The man who raped me thought I was joining their ranks, that I was a willing participant in homosexual activity even though I was barely pubescent. He told me about all the other kids he had abused.

"At that stage you try to rationalise things. You regard the assault as an expression of affection. A little later, while I was still at the home, that changed — I loathed what was happening and saw the attacks as evidence that I was unloved, unfriendly, thoroughly worthless."

When he left the home, Sean "lost control". Intelligent and sensitive, he was gripped by rage.

"I couldn't hold down a relationship. I didn't know if I was homosexual or straight. I didn't know if I wanted to live or die. That climate of abuse made me feel as though I had been poisoned."

"I was disgusted with myself. I couldn't face the real world and attempted suicide a couple of times. It was clinical despair."

In desperation, he decided to travel around Europe and sought therapy. When he returned to London a year later, he also decided to "get even" with his tormentors.

"I'll be in therapy for the rest of my life. I wish my brothers would follow suit, but they have decided to try to bury the past. I know that doesn't work."

"We have all been traumatised by what happened to us, this toxic legacy of maltreatment by those who were supposed to be looking after us. So have other children who were at the home. So many have failed to adapt to the real world and



Robbed of innocence: abused children, taught to swap sexual favours for sweets and toys, later develop intense self-loathing. Suicides are not uncommon

of course, there have been suicides. We were thrown on the scrapheap — and the abuse heaped on us is being heaped on other children now, as we speak."

Three years ago, Sean, now a young father and relatively at peace with himself, took on the council who "imprisoned" him at the home. He embarked on a campaign to unmask the abusers and bring them to justice.

"This is not just for my own stability, but for all the others abused then, and all those who are being abused now. There is institutionalised cruelty taking place and no one seems to give a damn."

Repeatedly "fobbed off" by the East London borough's social services department, Sean threatened to take his story to the press.

The following day, the director of social services telephoned. I was told that my files had been lost; that the staff I complained of were no longer employed by the council, and that the home had closed. I persisted, and an inquiry was launched which involved the police. It was a waste of time; even though one other person who had been at the home gave corroborative evidence about the rape and the house mother's sexual abuse.

In the end, the Crown Prosecution Service said there was insufficient evidence. The missing files undoubtedly played a part in that decision.

Sean then tried to launch a civil suit, alleging personal injury at the hands of social services staff. However, legal aid, essential for a High Court action, was refused.

Three months ago he made an official complaint to the council about his treatment while in care. As yet, there has been no reply.

"There is no point in being reactive when the damage has been done, particularly when recommendations are subse-

quently ignored or forgotten. I am talking about people who have ruined my whole life, ruined my brothers' lives. This is all about regaining my self-respect, years after they took it from me."

"I want someone to speak up for the children who have been made victims by social services and then betrayed an uncaring system."

Sean's words have an all-too-familiar ring for Allan Levy, QC, who chaired the Shropshire "Pindown" inquiry in 1990-91. He found that social services staff at four homes in the county had subjected children in their care to degrading punishments.

In the aftermath of Pindown, Mr Levy has little faith in inquiries, particularly when they are carried out by social services departments. He says that an independent Children's Commissioner should be appointed to ensure that the Government is not allowed to slide out of its obligations.

"Have we absorbed nothing over the past 12 years or so of abuse inquiries? No one should be indifferent to cruelty — be angry by all means, but learn from the mistakes of the past and ensure they do not recur."

"The Department of Health's social services inspectorate, which investigates claims of abuse, didn't spot Pindown. Where were they? They are good at pointing out defects after the event, but why aren't they making random checks around the country before there is trouble?"

"When there are so many blatant scandals, one has to ask why they didn't come to light earlier. What is lacking is a national and independent overview of the way we treat the most vulnerable people in our society."

"There is no point in being reactive when the damage has been done, particularly when recommendations are subse-

quently ignored or forgotten. I am drawn to the conclusion that there is something rotten in the system. The Government has to acknowledge that a long look must be taken at the treatment of children in care, and more money spent to ensure that the mistakes of the past are not replicated. How many must suffer before there is a change?"

Sir Herbert Laming, the man who heads the social services inspectorate, is the first to admit that "everything is not wonderful" in the childcare system. "I am far from sanguine and there must be considerable vigilance. Nevertheless, I am impressed by the courage and determination shown by management in tackling the issues."

Mr Levy, who specialises in childcare issues, finds it hard to give such praise or to be dispassionate about abuse and apparent official indifference. He says the system should not be allowed to fail at such a high human cost, and is critical of

the lack of follow-up to major inquiries. Furthermore, he is "concerned" that the media have been prevented from revealing the names of alleged paedophiles appearing before the current North Wales child abuse inquiry.

The tribunal was ordered by William Hague while he was Welsh Secretary, after Clywd County Council decided not to publish the report of an independent inquiry into allegations of abuse in its children's homes. Some of the most chilling evidence heard by the tribunal has come from beyond the grave: statements made by six men who died after telling police in the early 1990s about abuse and brutality in the Bryn Estyn home in Wrexham were read to the inquiry.

One man said that he had been sexually abused by a housemaster, who was later jailed for seven years. "I have never told anyone before about what happened to me," he said. "My wife doesn't know.

NO NAMES RULE

MUCH to the fury of reporters covering the North Wales child abuse tribunal, they have been prevented from naming alleged members of a paedophile ring accused of indulging in a relentless campaign of physical and sexual abuse against children in the care of Clwyd County Council. Sir Ronald Waterhouse, QC, the chairman of the tribunal, has threatened the media with High Court proceedings if they print names. Meanwhile, witnesses have claimed that members of the ring used their connections with police and social services to conceal their activities. All the accused have denied the allegations. Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, who has chaired five child abuse and mental health inquiries, takes issue with editors who question the tribunal chairman's decision to grant anonymity. He agrees that the lessons learnt from past inquiries have sometimes been lost because the teams involved are not responsible for allocating the resources needed to implement their recommendations. However, he has no problem with Sir Ronald's decision to gag the press. "The problem seems to me to be that there is nobody in front of the tribunal who is opposing the anonymity ruling — the opposition is solely from the media. It is very difficult for Sir Ronald to order otherwise when all the parties say that this is the only way to get people to give evidence who otherwise might not. The needs of a free press — requiring that people be named when they appear — have not necessarily been frustrated. The witnesses may well be identified when the final report is published."

neither do my parents. And when I think about what happened, I am disgusted. Now that this has been brought back to me and I have relived what that man did, I could kill him for it."

Without full knowledge of the circumstances, it was difficult to comment further on the anonymity ruling made by the tribunal chairman, Mr Levy said. "However, I would hope that the names will be in the report when it is finally published. On the wider question of prevention, though, let's recognise the defects before too many more children and young people are hurt."

"First, let's have independent inquiries and random checks. Then, let's start vetting social services recruits — too many unsuitable people are being hired. Training must be more efficient as well, and managers must be weaned off the principles of the marketplace. Too many executives in social services are more concerned with balancing the books than with the welfare of those their staff are employed to care for."

"The new bosses have no experience of the front line, and that leads to poor supervision. And what has the social services inspectorate been doing? The faults in care highlighted during the mid-1980s are still there."

Sean agrees, although for him such calls come a decade too late. "I want justice, and I have just about come to terms with my pain. But what about all the other little human time bombs being primed? Who is going to care about them if the system doesn't?"

"I am concerned about justice now. But what I want too is prevention. Please don't let any more children endure what I had to suffer."

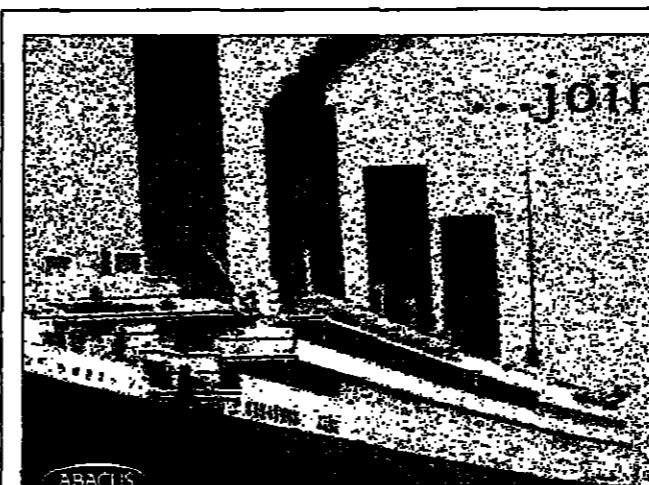
"A moving, microcosmic portrait of an era's bitter end"

Erica Wagner, *The Times*

EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF

Winner of the Whitbread Novel Award

JONATHAN Beryl Bainbridge on the last great adventure



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100% EXCISE CHARGES

Alan Coren



■ What are the odds
Baldric has an answer to
the Balkan question?

I yield to nobody in my admiration for Robin Cook. Anyone able to combine the equally demanding jobs of Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and racing tipster for the *Glasgow Herald* (a challenge which, history tells us, did not even cross Palmerston's mind) deserves every plaudit a grateful nation can throw at him – always provided, of course, that his copperplate billet-doux at the front of our passports will not henceforth offer 11-4 against the beaver being able to pass freely, without let or hindrance and, in the eternally tricky matter of a statesman's private life, he has managed to uphold standards set by no less rigorous a moralist than Michael Portillo himself.

Furthermore, he is by all accounts so eclectic a conversationalist that I am prepared to accept the explanation that last week's controversial aside on the Kashmir problem was no more than a reference to the irritation which understandably strikes after one has forked out 200 quid for a sleek, telegenic pullie only to have it return from its first dry-clean with bubbles all over it. Mr Cook, in short, never puts a foot wrong.

Which is what, no doubt, gave him both the confidence and the courage to rush that foot in where so many of his illustrious predecessors have feared to tread, viz. the Balkans. Faced, so early in his tenure, with the impenetrable miasma which has terminally clobbered many a promising political career, Mr Cook did not hesitate for an instant. He did not muck about. He rolled his sleeves up, and poked his forearm to the bottom of the drain. He ordered his FO minions, forthwith, to send the stricken Bosnian Serbs a gigantic aid package, consisting of *"Only Fools And Horses", "Lovejoy", "Absolutely Fabulous", "The Britas Empire", "Fawlty Towers", "One Foot in the Grave", and "Blackadder"*. Clearly, our Foreign Secretary is a man who knows all too well what stricken means.

For what has stricken the Bosnian Serbs is the lack of decent telly. Confronted with an unremitting barrage of regional cultural programmes, many of them repeats, those previously loyal to Banja Luka's SRT TV have fled in their pitiable hordes. Unable to take any more wobbly documentaries about well-dressing or donkey enemas or jamjar museums or rural hats, they have taken instead to the streets. They have become box refugees. They do not know which way to turn.

That is because they do not know that a deeply stirring champion is about to gallop to their succour. Here is what announcing his splendid scheme on Monday, Mr Cook declared: "Not surprisingly, the Serbian [sic] people have switched off. We want to encourage them to switch back on, not only so they can enjoy our comedies and get hooked on our soaps, but so they can receive a more fibrous political message."

This is not just stirring – possibly immortal – rhetoric; it is exactly what we should expect from a great Government which won power through its burning faith in the cathode, cannily recognising that a public bored witless by an 18-year-old soap opera was not going to pass up the opportunity to switch channels, come what might. No surprise, then, that the great insider should go nap on Sitcom Diplomacy, nor any complaint from us, who so resoundingly put him there to do it.

But, perhaps, a small niggling doubt? Glancing again at the list of video goodies even now winging towards the grateful Bosnian Serbs, might we not question Mr Cook's trust in that political message of his, given the likely composite picture of the country from which it is delivered? A country, that is, patently packed to the gunwales with workshy duckers and divers, incompetent even at the villainy through which they dream of escaping urban blight or rural fossilisation and rich dysfunctional parasites, legless from booze, coke, and alternative therapies, and venal though inept businessmen, and dangerously sociopathic hoteliers, and woefully disgruntled OAPs – all of them heirs to a long history of mad monarchs, corrupt politicians, evil generals, bent judges, and Baldric. Then again, it might discourage a few asylum-seekers.

Let us give the Foreign Secretary the benefit of the doubt. Call it an each-way bet.



ANOTHER MINORITY GROUP ARRIVES ON SOUTH COAST IN SEARCH OF A BETTER LIFE....

The grandaddy of spin

Mandelson's press paranoia seems to be inherited, says Francis Beckett

Spin-doctors have been at the heart of recent comings and goings over the Government's intentions towards the single currency. Newspapers and rumour mills are full of the briefings and moods of Alastair Campbell (Tony Blair's press secretary) and Charlie Whelan (Gordon Brown's adviser). But the name that is missing is much more interesting. No one has mentioned Peter Mandelson.

Mandelson is one of the most remarkable politicians alive today. Either he brought back his party from the dead, or has made everyone believe he did, which is just as great an achievement. He was probably the first Briton to whom the American term "spin-doctor", which comes from baseball, was applied, though the trade is not new. For at least 50 years, political parties have employed people whose job it was to put a different spin on news stories.

So where has he been these past few days? He still controls government communications. Cynics will suggest he is keeping a low profile so that the odium of EMU confusion will attach itself to Charlie Whelan, with whom he does not enjoy cordial relations. But the truth is likely to be far simpler.

Mandelson's ambition is, and always has been, political. His route to Parliament happened to include a spell of spin-doctoring, and he found he was rather good at it. But now he is like an actor who wants to play Hamlet, and people insist on talking about how good he is in *Coronation Street*.

What sort of politician is he, and how far will he travel? We can get an idea by looking at the remarkable career of his grandfather Herbert Morrison, the architect of Labour's nationalisation programme, because the similarities between the two are striking. Morrison was a workaholic who lived and breathed politics. Like Mandelson, his day always started with the press coverage, and if he felt a newspaper treated him unfairly, he always complained. Like Mandelson, he tried to control his coverage and was oversensitive to newspaper criticism.

Morrison always understood, as some of his colleagues did not, that public relations was an essential instrument in 20th-century democratic politics. He took care to get to know editors and lobby correspondents, and to become a crucial source of information for them, just as Mandelson has done.

The similarities do not stop with their

attitude to the press. Morrison advocated in the 1950s what his grandson advocated in the 1990s: Labour, he said, would keep its solid working-class support, whatever it did. The task was to bring the middle classes on board. By 1949 the architect of nationalisation was arguing that the nationalisation programme should stop. The parallel with his grandson is exact after the 1990 election, which Labour won narrowly. He wrote a memorandum for the NEC which talked of the need to "modernise".

Morrison rose to be Deputy Prime Minister under Clement Attlee. As well as controlling the Government's nationalisation programme,

he was one of its chief economic policymakers, and for the last few months of the Government's life he was Foreign Secretary. But the top prize, for which he jested all his life, eluded him. Instead, he had to serve a Prime Minister with whom he had an awkward and uneasy relationship.

Mandelson, on the other hand, is immensely influential with Blair now, regarded by many as his alter ego", according to John Rentoul in his 1995 biography of Tony Blair.

Attlee and Blair are the only Labour Prime Ministers to have been educated at public schools, but that is where the similarity stops. Blair's instincts and style of leadership are quite different from Attlee's, and make him a much easier person to work with and prosper under. No one could ever have called Attlee a "moderniser" in the sense that Morrison and Mandelson have used the word. Attlee wrote that there is no point in "wintering down". Labour's Socialist creed in order to attract new adherents who cannot accept the full Socialist faith. On the contrary, I believe that it is only a clear and bold policy that will attract the press.

Margash recalled one of Attlee's few press conferences. Scheduled to last an hour, it was flagging within ten minutes. The replies Margash remembered were "Nothing in that". "You're off beam again". "I've never heard that, have

newspapers. Attlee asked what good it would do. Williams replied that it would keep the Prime Minister up to date on the lunchtime cricket scores.

The week after the Telex was installed, Attlee looked into Williams's office to ask why his "cricket machine" was ticking out the decisions and subjects discussed at the Cabinet meeting that morning. Williams explained that he routinely briefed the political correspondents. "OK, Francis, I'll leave the show to you. Good work." Throughout his time as Prime Minister there was never a television in Downing Street or Chequers. Even if mobile telephones had been invented, you cannot imagine Attlee passing a mobile through the window of his car to a journalist so that his press officer could pass on the correct "spin", as Blair once did.

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PRODI'S SHORT SPOON

Italy's obsession with EMU has produced a devilish bargain

Last week's Italian Government crisis was short; its aftermath will be anything but sweet. Now that Italians are beginning to work out the costs of Romano Prodi's readiness to be blackmailed by the country's small hardline Communist Party, the deal he struck is revealed as a grievous defeat for social reform, economic stability and political accountability. They have reason to ask what, beyond the saving of his political skin, the Prime Minister has to crow about.

The first cause for concern is what his decision to win over the unacceptable face of Italian socialism says about the unreformed condition of Italian politics. Behind all the rhetoric about Italy's unmissable rendezvous with monetary union, the clear aim of President Scalfaro and Signor Prodi was to do anything, but anything, to avoid turning to the voters. Now that he is in power Signor Prodi, who once famously exhorted Italians to "vote, vote and vote again" until they got the government they needed, appears to have lost his enthusiasm for the ballot box. Government crises are once again, it seems, what they have been for half a century, affairs to be tackled behind closed doors by the familiar cast of party tacticians.

Equally disturbing are the terms of this deal. Signor Prodi's coalition of the Left relies on the votes of the Communists; they are the rotten earth around his Olive Tree coalition. Once Fausto Bertinotti, their leader, had announced that they would vote against the "EMU or bust" budget for 1998, Signor Prodi had a choice between going to the country, accepting the centre-right Opposition's offer of a "government for Europe" or buying out a bunch of unreconstructed reactionaries. The course he chose was bad for Italy; and in his anxiety to seal this Faustian pact, he used too short a spoon.

That is the verdict not only of any economist with a pencil and the back of an envelope to hand; almost uniquely in Italy's

postwar experience, Signor Prodi has united both employers and unions in protest. Confindustria, the employers' federation, has made the obvious point that Signor Prodi's promise to follow France in cutting the working week by 2001 from 40 to 35 hours will, by adding 10 to 12 per cent to labour costs, jeopardise jobs rather than create them. Pietro Larizza, leader of the UIL union federation, not only agrees, but says that the pledge is a recipe for industrial strife and that Italy will "end up paying with social war" for the political peace which the Government has bought at such expense.

Signor Prodi may hope to wriggle out of this particular promise, pleading that these two pillars of Italian corporatism must first agree. But he is solidly committed to other giveaways that blow huge holes not only in his reputation for political courage but in Italy's finances. Even in its original form, the 1998 budget was a conjuring trick that squeezed Italy into its Maastricht suit for the time being, but fell far short of the pension reforms without which the State is headed for bankruptcy. It will fall far shorter now. Almost casually, he has exempted manual and other workers from pension reforms, set aside 3,000 million lire of the proceeds from privatising Telecom Italia for job creation in the South and stopped dead the privatisation of ENEL, the state electricity giant. Confindustria says that with Signor Prodi's hands now tied on pension reform, the tripartite talks due to resume today are pointless.

This retreat betrays Italians who have shown their readiness to pay dearly for real reform. Victory in this battle against the past is not only indispensable to Italy's survival inside monetary union; it is too important a strategic goal to be subordinated to the EMU timetable. Signor Prodi may think that he has saved Italy from a crisis, but he has laid the ground for a much graver one, and it will come sooner than he imagines.

DISASTER IN THE MAKING

El Niño's impact should be anticipated now

The erosion of Rio de Janeiro's Copacabana beach may be the most spectacular example of the El Niño effect but it is hardly the most important. The impact of this extraordinary climatological phenomenon may eventually cost more than \$10 billion. El Niño is a periodic disturbance of the ocean currents and winds of the equatorial Pacific Ocean. As a result, weather patterns that normally travel between the Americas and Asia first abate and then reverse course. The consequence is that areas which would normally expect heavy rainfall are disrupted little and places that would usually anticipate little rain are suddenly inundated. This is most dramatic in the Pacific but it affects the entire planet.

El Niño is not in itself novel. Until recently, it has occurred on a regular basis—every three to seven years. The scale is usually modest although always disruptive. It has been 15 years since the last major disaster which led to more than a thousand deaths and \$8 billion in expense. For reasons that remain a matter of extreme meteorological controversy, these patterns seem to have altered of late. Some sort of El Niño was registered in every year between 1991 and 1995. In 1996 it suddenly disappeared completely. This year is likely to witness the most serious example this century. Average global temperatures may reach their highest-ever recorded levels this year. They will probably be exceeded once again in 1998.

It is difficult to understand the devastation this involves. The vast forest fires in Indonesia, which have blanketed neighbouring nations in a poisonous haze, have been gravely worsened by the drought caused by El Niño. Harvests have suffered and water has become exceptionally scarce throughout that region, halting most mineral produc-

tion in Papua New Guinea. The rice crop in the Philippines has all but failed. The west coast of the Americas has endured tumultuous rainfall from Canada to Chile. Floods have prompted vast insurance claims in California. The outcome will be noted in the supermarket as well as South America. Grain has been hit hard throughout the southern hemisphere. Coffee prices will spiral. Chilean wine will prove a washout.

If, as seems likely, this is indeed the largest El Niño on record then numerous fragile economies will suffer enormous harm. The full scale of their pain will become apparent only next year when the extremely warm ocean currents that have rapidly moved from one end of the Pacific Ocean to the other finally run their course. Sea temperatures, which are currently more than 5°C above average, should then start to cool. The World Bank has swiftly alerted aid agencies to the coming problems. It is less clear whether individual donor nations are as equally prepared.

Mankind will never achieve control over the elements. That does not mean that people are entirely helpless. The American Climate Prediction Centre has become ever more accurate in its anticipation of both the timing and extent of El Niño. Last time, countries that needed these early warnings were able to alter crop plantings, to beneficial effect. Those that did not this time will have little excuse. Although the World Bank has been vigilant, other international bodies have been less impressive. Those responsible for advance purchase of agricultural commodities have substantial room for sharp improvement as well. Brazil's beaches will recover in due course. A more robust approach could ensure that others are better able to adjust to this climatic freak.

ER. MINISTER

Ministers should not sign what they have not read

British officials have an international reputation, normally deserved, as skilled drafters of international agreements. British ministers, too, pride themselves on being alert to the hidden perils of the small print. Yet the only rational explanation for Britain's enthusiastic adherence to the Dublin Convention on the treatment of asylum-seekers in the European Union is that its negotiators spent three years half asleep and that no one bothered to read the final text before the then Home Secretary, David Waddington—who appears not even to remember doing so—signed it in June 1990.

John Major surely cannot have read it either, or he would not have ratified it in July 1992, earlier than any of the other 12 EU signatories except Denmark. Until this week, no one seems to have checked it either. Since 1990, Home Office ministers and officials have been briefing journalists and maintaining in legal submissions to British courts that the convention affirms Britain's right to return asylum-seekers to the first EU country entered. In 1992, when Britain was, to its shame, sending genuine refugees from the former Yugoslavia back to countries such as Germany which already had more than 200,000 of them, the Home Office privately dubbed this "to do a Dublin". Tony Blair, who as Shadow Home Secretary protested vehemently at the time that Britain's conduct was "disgraceful", did not query its legality. Only now, after the convention has

entered into force, have officials "discovered" that it means the exact opposite. Yet no legal genius is required to understand this; Article 7 is as clear as it is explicit. It says that where an "alien", defined as any non-EU citizen, enters a EU member state without needing a visa, then proceeds to another EU state and there lodges an application for asylum, "the latter state shall be responsible for examining the application". This is reinforced by Article 8. Article 10 further obliges that state to accept back asylum-seekers who then slip into another EU country, even if it has rejected their application or if they have withdrawn it and applied in another EU state.

The Dublin Convention serves some useful purposes. The rules prevent asylum-seekers "shopping around" for the country with the highest benefits or—as in Britain's case—the slowest procedures. They also aimed at ending the inhumane shunting of asylum-seekers from airport to airport while governments argued over who was responsible. But the main argument for dropping the "first safe country" rule was that the EU was to abolish internal frontiers, which Britain has always refused to do. Britain should not therefore have signed. It cannot now, like Humpty Dumpty, assert that this convention "means just what I choose it to mean". But in future EU negotiations, this unwanted display of Tory carelessness should put this Government on its guard.

Commonwealth and human rights

*From Mrs Anita Roddick,
Founder of The Body Shop*

Sir, Last week, a single, creased postcard-sized photo of an Ogoni man called Kafe Betu arrived in the mail for me from Nigeria. His picture joins 19 others on my wall of Ogoni men who today sit in a stinking cell at Port Harcourt prison: the same cell from which they watched the execution of their leader, Ken Saro-Wiwa, during the last Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Auckland in 1995.

Two years on, these 20 young men, held for over three years without trial, are facing the same trumped-up charges used by the Nigerian military to justify the execution of Ken and eight others. Their conditions are appalling, driving them to a hunger strike last month, which resulted in one of their number being rushed to hospital.

This week, the same Commonwealth leaders who so vehemently condemned Ken's killing meet in Edinburgh. But, at the weekend, while Kafe Betu and his 19 colleagues languish in their dark hole, the Commonwealth leaders will be "relaxing" at St Andrews.

No doubt we will hear talk of "progress" in Nigeria and calls for "quiet diplomacy" if prisoners are to be released. It has already started. Chief Anyaoku, the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, is already talking of "Nigeria putting itself right in the space of the next 12 months". Apparently, Commonwealth leaders want to give the military dictators a chance and not act against them as they promised two years ago. Instead, they are giving them another 12 months in which to hold democratic elections.

Have our leaders learned nothing? It pains me to remember how Ken's son pleaded in Auckland with the Commonwealth to take effective action to save his father. They didn't tell him and the rest of us that "quiet diplomacy" would save the day. It didn't.

If Kafe and his colleagues are to avoid the same fate, the Commonwealth must act this time. If Nigeria is to get its extra year, then every month must see another step on the road to democracy, beginning with the release of the Ogoni 20 and followed by the withdrawal of the Nigerian military from Ogoniland. If not, then the Ogoni 20 will no longer be innocent prisoners of the Nigerian dictatorship, but of the Commonwealth as a whole.

Yours faithfully,
ANITA RODDICK
Founder, The Body Shop,
The Body Shop International plc,
Watersmead,
Littlehampton, West Sussex.
October 16

Gypsies from Slovakia

From the Reverend John Webster

Sir, You will stand up for the "up to 6,000 Gypsies" who say they face persecution in Eastern Europe (reports, October 20, 21)?

Some may certainly be coming to this country for economic reasons, but every Romany must be fearful of what may befall them when they have crows imposed by the Slovak Government and the same Government has cut child benefit to Romanies to curb the "reproduction of socially unacceptable people".

The Romany people have every right to their ancient language and culture, and were shown more tolerance by the old Habsburg regime than many of the modern so-called "democracies" of Eastern Europe. A large portion of Romanies are God-fearing Christian people, many of them Pentecostals.

Will our Foreign Secretary, who is seeking to exercise ethical values in diplomacy, and our representative at the United Nations speak for them?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN WEBSTER
(Minister, Stoneham Road
Baptist Church),
7 Amherst Crescent,
Hove, East Sussex.
October 21

Caught on camera

From Mr T. Jackson

Sir, Having recently made a return journey between London and Preston by road, negotiating three busy motorways (M25, M40 and M6) in the process, I would like to offer a tip to those many reasonable law-abiding and competent car drivers among your readers who have suffered the menace of other cars tailgating them at high speed in an attempt to "bully" their way past.

Simply ask your passenger to turn around and point a video recorder at the offending vehicle through the back window and then watch it retreat quickly into the distance. It is particularly effective when the now surprised driver is simultaneously making one of those terribly urgent mobile phone calls.

Yours faithfully,
TIM JACKSON,
29 Pinfold Road, Streatham, SW16.
October 19

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

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Nigella Lawson's 'no-hope' teachers

From Mrs P. P. S. Brownless

Sir, Nigella Lawson (article, "No-hope in the classroom", October 15) makes some useful points concerning the lack of good teachers. Teacher-training courses are generally regarded as a waste of time by graduates whom I have known over the years. But the real difficulty is that teaching is no longer any fun. It has always been hard work; now it is just drudgery.

Lack of discipline, because teachers now have no effective sanctions, and the plethora of regulations mean that it is almost impossible to get on with the job. Many able teachers are longing to get out and quite a number seek early retirement.

Yours faithfully,
P. P. S. BROWNLESS,
(Headmaster, Lambrook School,
Bracknell, 1954-71).

The Hornpipe,
Oak Meadow, Birdham,
Chichester, West Sussex.
October 16

From Mr Neil Welton

Sir, Nigella Lawson reflected the challenge I face as an undergraduate considering a possible career in teaching. My experience in state schools has, sadly, provided me with more reasons not to enter teaching than to do so.

I have met teachers without basic O-level/GCSE qualifications and noted how dogma and liberal theory have been put before the educational wellbeing of the children. I have witnessed staff political struggles which have been more childish than the children and met arrogant head-teachers whose "philosophy" must be carried out by all staff, or else.

It will take more than cinema advertisements with "successful" people, none of whom entered teaching (report, October 15), to convince me. Teaching and teacher-training need further reform. They need to embrace the very values that many teachers reject—competition and selection. Future teachers, but more important current teachers, must be fully exposed to them.

Yours sincerely,
N. WELTON,
The White House,
1 Aberdulais Road,
Llandaff North, Cardiff.
October 15

Living wills

From Mr Gerard Wright, QC

Sir, You report today the Lord Chancellor's expressed intention to initiate legislation which will give legal validity to so-called "living wills". A living will is more properly called an advance directive; it sets out a person's wishes should there come a time when he or she is physically or mentally incapable of consenting to, or of refusing, medical treatment.

In proposing new legislation the Lord Chancellor is thus stepping into a medico-legal minefield. Who will inform the maker of an advance directive that there are strong grounds for believing that an unconscious or vegetative person who is deprived of hydration will suffer all the pangs of thirst and will die in agony?

Who will be able to inform the advance director what advances will

From Mrs M. Tibbett

Sir, As a teacher I encourage my pupils to avoid prejudice, stereotyping and generalisations, all glaring features of Ms Lawson's article.

She maintained that "most teachers are those graduates with the least imagination". I have found the reverse to be true, as most teachers wish to share with children the wonder of the world, its richness and complexity.

My colleagues are caring, committed and accept a moral responsibility—a responsibility lacking in Nigella Lawson's column.

Yours faithfully,
M. TIBBETT,
Woodhill,
High Park, Hawarden, Flintshire.
October 15

From Mr Clive Howarth

Sir, Substitute the word journalist for teacher and most of Nigella Lawson's column would stand.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE HOWARTH,
The Old Barn,
Compton Dando, Bristol.
10/04/2002@compuserve.com
October 16

From Mr Phil Thane

Sir, Nigella Lawson is quite right to point out that most teachers are not very good; neither are car workers or journalists.

Most, like me, are pretty average. The difference is that Ford and Times Newspapers have created systems which allow average workers to produce a perfectly acceptable product. Unfortunately this is something which those managing the education service have failed to do.

Yours faithfully,
PHIL THANE,
43 Horseshoe Way, Brampton,
Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire.
October 15

*From Professor Emeritus
D. Tabor, FRS*

Sir, Could we not, for a change, read some positive, upgrading and encouraging remarks about teachers?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID TABOR,
8 Rutherford Road, Cambridge.
October 15

have been made in medical science by the time that the directive becomes operative? Who can predict that in 20 or 30 years' time the 20-year-old who has bought a form from a supermarket (as Allan Levy, QC, suggests he could) will still be of the same mind or will even remember that he has made a directive forbidding doctors from providing treatment which they know can restore the director to good health?

The advance directive is much cherished by the Voluntary Euthanasia Society. It is part of the culture of death which is insidiously growing in our society. The Lord Chancellor should reject this highly dangerous concept.

Yours etc,
GERARD WRIGHT,
Kings Court,
Kings Gap, Hoylake, Wirral.
October 14

From Mr P. R. Millett

Sir, I endorse Mr Michael Pengelly's protest letter (October 15) about the closure of magistrates' courts. As a prosecuting solicitor I used to cover five courts in west Dorset in the 1970s; even then we were never short of work.

I also endorse the case made by the Chairman of the Hong Kong Magistrates' Association, in an adjoining letter, for enlarging the work of magistrates.

I was later a salaried (ie, stipendiary) magistrate in Hong Kong; the system was remarkably efficient and

orthcoming
marriages

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 22 1997

OBITUARIES

Kenneth Wood, inventor of the Kenwood Chef electric mixer, died on October 19, aged 81. He was born on October 4, 1916.

Kenneth Wood developed and gave his name to one of the favourite fixtures in the postwar kitchen. The prototype of his Kenwood Chef electric mixer drew raised eyebrows from bankers and other backers when he tried to finance its production in 1948. Potential suppliers were no more impressed; demanding money upfront before they handed over parts. But Wood went ahead regardless, and was richly rewarded for his faith. Housewives loved the new product, which chopped and kneaded and peeled and mixed, taking the preparatory drudgery out of cooking at a time when domestic servants were suddenly scarce.

The first stocks to reach the shops sold out within days. Some of those robust early models are still, it seems, in use today, but another eight million or so have since been sold. The success of the Chef turned Kenwood into one of the biggest players in the international market for household goods. By the time it was taken over by the buccaneering Sir Jules Thorn in 1968, at which point Wood severed his connection with the company he had started in

a Woking workshop in 1947, Kenwood was selling the world's largest range of domestic products. Subsequently transformed by a management buyout and a stockmarket flotation, the company celebrates its fifth anniversary this year.

Kenneth Maynard Wood was born in Lewisham and attended Bromley County School. His father died when Kenneth was 12, and at 14 the boy decided, despite his mother's objections, to go to sea. He joined the tramp steamer *Hartlepool* as a navigation apprentice on a voyage to South America. He jumped ship in Brazil on his maiden voyage, but was eventually to remain at sea for four years.

Back in England, at 19, he enrolled in evening classes to study accountancy and electrical engineering. He found work in a radio repair shop, and then built up a radio business of his own. During the war he joined the RAF; transferred to the Admiralty, he worked on the design of radar simulators. His first venture into kitchen appliances came after the war, when he set up a company with a partner to manufacture toasters. The partner's name was Roger Laurence, and but for the timely intervention of a shrewd accountant, what is now one of the best-known brands in the world might well have been sold as Woodland.

The wartime production effort had made Wood aware of the benefits of factory automation — and of its potential benefits in the home. Cash was a problem, however. The company started life in a tiny workshop next door to a fishmonger's in Woking, with Wood paying himself £7 week and borrowing much of the £400 he needed to manufacture his first product, a toaster.

The Kenwood toaster, Wood admitted, borrowed from and improved on similar products by more established manufacturers: labour-saving devices had long been common in American and Continental homes. The Kenwood mixer was no more original, though it was bulkier and heavier than its rivals, with a separate motor, and its solidity seemed to impress potential buyers.

The real secret of the Chef's success lay not in engineering, but in marketing. However, a brilliant salesman, Wood was quick to see that demonstration was the best way to sell his products. When Harrods took and demonstrated 25 mixers, the entire stock sold out almost at once; other big London department stores, which had rejected Wood when he approached them first time round, now rushed to order and to organise demonstrations.

Wood was energetic in pursuing

the export market too. The Kenwood Chef sold particularly well in France, where its ability to make mayonnaise in seconds was apparently much admired. In Canada, where US manufacturers dominated the market, a cunning door-to-door sales scheme helped Kenwood to make inroads; salesmen purported to be doing market research on consumer reaction to a new brand of powdered milk; while the mixed milk cooled in the fridge, the Chef was demonstrated to pass the time. "We started selling mixers," said Wood, "but we also sold a hell of a lot of milk."

Kenwood, which had been on the verge of bankruptcy when the Chef was first developed, now went from strength to strength. Belgium, Switzerland and Israel were among the markets in which it prospered. At home, it was able to buy up other companies in the field, and expanded its range to include everything from irons to dishwashers and waste-disposal systems. Wood was a millionaire by 42.

He had built up an effective team at Kenwood, and was able to draw on such talents as the distinguished designer Kenneth Grange, who revamped the Kenwood Chef in the 1950s, and the company finance expert Ian Morrow, who helped to turn sales into profits. There were setbacks, however, notably a disastrous foray into refrigerators in the

early 1960s, and the company turned out to be a fairly easy target for the predatory attentions of Sir Jules Thorn, and was not prepared to be a minion; he severed his links with the company once the takeover was complete. He later welcomed the management buyout which restored the company's independence in 1989, and the subsequent stockmarket flotation. As recently as 1992, updated versions of the Kenwood Chef still accounted for almost a third of the group's total sales.

Wood pursued a number of other business interests after leaving the company he had founded. He was managing director of the power plant manufacturers Dawson-Keith Holdings from 1972 to 1980, and of Hydrotech Systems from 1984 to 1987. He was also active in the leisure industry, founding the Forest Mere Health Farm at Liphook and developing a golf club near his home. But he had always said that he "didn't want to be one of those guys who ends up with £4 million and hasn't lived", and he was happy to spend much of his time on the golf course.

Kenneth Wood was twice married. He is survived by his second wife Patricia, the two sons and two daughters of his first marriage, and by three stepsons.



GROUP CAPTAIN DESMOND SCOTT

Group Captain Desmond Scott, DSO, OBE, DFC and Bar, New Zealand wartime fighter ace, died in Christchurch on October 8 aged 79. He was born on September 11, 1918.

DESMOND SCOTT was one of that gallant — and gifted — band of New Zealanders who made a contribution to the Allied effort in the Second World War which was out of all proportion to their numbers. Indeed, he would undoubtedly have had a much higher tally of kills as a fighter pilot than the eight with which he was credited had he not, from mid-1943, spent most of his time flying Typhoon ground attack and "tank-busting" aircraft.

As commander of 123 Wing in the Second Tactical Air Force during the Normandy campaign he made an invaluable contribution to the defeat of German attempts to organise an effective defence to the Allied advance. German Panzer commanders were repeatedly on the verge of succumbing to despair as they moved their armour forward only to be confronted by the spectre of the RAF's low-flying Typhoons, screaming in over the bocage country and wreaking havoc on tanks and self-propelled guns.

No 123 Wing's contribution was particularly devastating during the early weeks of August 1944, by the end of which it became clear that the



Scott, left, with Eisenhower in Holland, 1944; between them Wing Commander W. D. Dring, killed shortly afterwards

Germans had lost the battle for Normandy. As General von Lintwitz commanding the powerful Second Panzer Division recorded: "Suddenly the Allied fighter-bombers swooped out of the sky. They came down in their hundreds, firing their rockets at the concentrated tanks and vehi-

cles. We could do nothing against them and we could make no further progress... We were forced to give up the ground we had gained and by August 9 the division was back where it started, having lost 30 tanks and 800 men."

Whatever the retrospective

verdict on the effectiveness of Allied strategic bombing may be, the exercise of tactical air power received a triumphant vindication in Normandy. Five years later General Speidel's verdict was still that "armoured operation was completely wrecked, exclusively by the Allied air forces." In

the third week of August, with the remainder of the German forces trapped in the Falaise pocket, the Typhoons of 123 Wing completed the destruction of the enemy.

Besides being a triumph for the then fledgling doctrine of close air support of armoured units on the battlefield, the campaign was also a vindication of the decision to persevere with the Typhoon after early models of the aircraft had totally failed to impress as interceptor fighters at high altitude.

The Typhoon's excellent low-level performance, the robustness of its airframe and its ability to carry much heavier rocket and bomb loads than the Spitfire, made it an ideal fighter-bomber. These qualities enabled wings like Scott's No 123 to become the leaders of the skies over the Normandy battlefield.

Without them, Allied armament would have had a much worse time than it did against the superior Panther and Tiger tanks of the Wehrmacht. Desmond James Scott was born at Ashburton, New Zealand, educated at the Cathedral Grammar School, Christchurch, and grew up in the North Canterbury hills. He served with the Canterbury Yeomanry Cavalry before joining the Royal New Zealand Air Force in 1940, coming in March 1941 to England. On secondment to the RAF, he

married, in 1944, Joyce Ramage who died in 1966. He was succeeded by his second wife, Margaret, whom he married in 1972, by the four daughters of his first marriage, and by the two stepdaughters and the stepson of his second.

SIR GILBERT LONGDEN

Sir Gilbert Longden, MBE, MP for South West Herts, 1950-74, died on October 16 aged 95. He was born on April 16, 1902.

THE death of Gilbert Longden marks, yet again, the passing of the old Tory party which owed so much to the adoption of Beveridge and full employment in the years immediately after the end of the Second World War. Longden was an original member of the One Nation Group which included Enoch Powell, Edward Heath, Iain Macleod, Angus Maude, Reginald Maudling and Sir John Rogers. The group set the tone for the Tories in Opposition under Churchill, and remained the dominant influence in the party until Margaret Thatcher embraced monetarism in the rapid succession.

His introduction to the Typhoon was the only one of the newly formed 198 Squadron, which he was appointed to command early in 1943. But he was soon posted again, this time to the second of the Royal New Zealand Air Force's squadrons to be formed in Britain, No 486. In sweeps and night intrusions Scott exploited the Typhoon's low-level performance to shoot down a Messerschmitt 109 and two Focke-Wulf 190s, to bring his score to eight.

By now he had an outstanding reputation as a fighter leader and in August 1943 was appointed a wing leader at Tangmere. By 1944 when he was posted to France to command 123 Wing he was at 25, the youngest group captain in the RAF. Besides gaining a DSO he was also appointed OBE for rescuing a pilot from a burning aircraft. As CO of 123 Wing, Scott and his Typhoons followed in the wake of the Allied armies' victorious progress across Europe, giving strafing and rocketing support all the way.

The Typhoon's excellent low-level performance, the robustness of its airframe and its ability to carry much heavier rocket and bomb loads than the Spitfire, made it an ideal fighter-bomber. These qualities enabled wings like Scott's No 123 to become the leaders of the skies over the Normandy battlefield.

After the war, though offered a permanent commission in the RAF, Scott elected to return to New Zealand in 1947 and there he established an import/export business. He was the author of two books describing his wartime experiences in Typhoons: *Typhoon Pilot* (1982) and *One More Hour* (1989).

He married, in 1944, Joyce Ramage who died in 1966. He was succeeded by his second wife, Margaret, whom he married in 1972, by the four daughters of his first marriage, and by the two stepdaughters and the stepson of his second.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TV is not exempt from the charge of intrusion

Time to clean up the 'media scrum'

EVERYONE in the media and beyond has been continuing to assess their performance on how they handled the reaction to the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. This week commercial radio has been putting itself on the back for judging its response well. Talk Radio UK, the national commercial chat station, says it took its cue from listeners and simply opened its airwaves to the subject until the most talkative people had talked themselves out.

Television executives have already publicly exonerated themselves from any suggestion that they created the unprecedented reaction to the tragedy rather than merely responding to it. Reviews are continuing on whether television will cover any future royal deaths, and there is no doubt that the coverage will be very different next time round.

Even the Church of England was reviewing its performance this week, and judged it good, — except perhaps for a few clergymen who declined to open their churches to mark the occasion.

The most interesting response so far has been that of the national press, which benefited from huge circulation increases last month. A cynic might have assumed that the press would wring its hands in public for a few days, hold a few meetings with the Press Complaints Commission and wait for the furor to die down before resuming its bad old ways.

So far, the signs are encouraging that some permanent and fundamental changes to the standards that newspapers set themselves will be made, even though MPs who take misresses can be sure of receiving the full traditional treatment.

A new draft code has already been agreed in principle and should be ready to be implemented on January 1. One aspect could take a little longer: trying to do something about the "media scrum" that descends on unfortunates who suddenly find themselves in the media eye, often at a time of great personal tragedy.

This is a problem that goes far beyond the press, and great weight is added to the media scrum by the arrival of numerous TV camera crews and radio reporters with microphones to shove in people's faces.

Lord Wakeham plans to have talks with Lady Howe of Abervavon, chairman of the Broadcasting Complaints Commission, to see whether some all-industry guidelines can be drawn up. It will be a difficult problem to solve. Each news organisation has a legitimate right to try to get its own words and pictures on a story. It is their



RAYMOND SNODDY

collective presence that changes the nature of the event and the degree of threat. The hope is that ways can be found at least to minimise the time the "media scrum" is in action. There are two useful precedents at Dunblane and Balmoral, when journalists did their jobs and voluntarily left. A wider use of "pooling" — using a small number of journalists to report on behalf of the many — on some stories might also help. In fact, the lack of pooling arrangements for the television coverage of the Princess's funeral service in Westminster Abbey is still causing squabbles between broadcasters, which could end up with the lawyers. There has already been an exchange of letters between the BBC and Reuters' Television about whether the Reuters' news agency had any right to transmit BBC pictures from the Abbey to its clients around the world.

But the real gain will be a new code which will prohibit publication of pictures obtained by "persistent pursuit" or the result of unlawful behaviour. Photo agencies fearing a fall-off in business seem to be very willing to put themselves within the ambit of the PCC and sign up to the industry's code of practice.

The comprehensive changes include trying to redefine the concept of privacy to include those areas which constitute a "private life", such as a person's home life, health and personal correspondence. Lord Wakeham also wants to try to ensure that any level of intrusion is proportionate to the public interest involved.

The reforms would also promise that young people should be able to complete their full-time education without unnecessary press intrusion, and the story should not be published about the children of the well-known unless there is justification for the story other than the relationship with either parent.

THERE will always be problems of definition, and some editors will undoubtedly try to test the new code to its limit. But so many changes are involved that they should not be dismissed as window-dressing.

The proposed changes being embraced by the newspaper industry come not a moment too soon. If self-regulation is not seen to work, then the planned incorporation of the Bill of Human Rights into British legislation will give judges the opportunity to extend a legal concept of privacy through case law.

Who doubts that they will take the opportunity given half the chance?

The effectiveness of his strategy

will soon be tested. Forthcoming releases include *The Borrowers*, based on the classic children's books by Mary Norton, and *The Matchmaker*, a romantic comedy about an American girl finding love in Ireland. Another big project is *Elizabeth I*, a conspiratorial portrayal of the 16th-century queen.

"I used to think travel was glamorous; now I cannot think of anything worse than getting on a plane," he says. "We have also had bad experiences when employing people from Hollywood. The place is run on fear. You get these terrified people, almost like wounded animals, you just don't get very good work out of them."

Yet his plans for Working Title are based firmly on his understanding of Hollywood.

"Our films need to be successful in America, particularly now that we are getting into bigger budgets. We can learn a lot from Hollywood and, I hope, create films that are off its beaten path."

Think big, think Hollywood.

MANIFESTO FILM



Working Title's Tim Bevan says *Four Weddings and a Funeral* was "a lovely little film". It earned £158 million

The man behind Rowan Atkinson's Bean says British films rely too much on luck. Chris Ayres reports

by Chris Ayres

bra, which did work for U2, Simple Minds and Frankie Goes to Hollywood.

"I learnt how to form a company, how to read accounts — what lawyers did," says Mr Bevan. "For people wanting to start in the film business, getting a law degree would not be a bad move."

"We are very bad at making family movies in this country," says Mr Bevan. "Family, when it works, is phenomenal."

The son of a doctor, Mr Bevan skipped university and worked unpaid, in the early 1980s for a company that made management training videos starring John Cleese. His fascination with the industry led him to borrow money and team up with Sarah Radcliffe, a friend, to form a music video production company. Al-

though they did work for U2, Simple Minds and Frankie Goes to Hollywood.

"My Beautiful Launderette was the first in a string of successful low-budget films for the company, including *Wish You Were Here* and *The Tall Guy*. But Working Title was still making a painful loss and risking folding at any time."

"At that time we started to develop scripts. The first movie came from Stephen Frears, one of our music video directors, who sent me the screenplay of *My Beautiful Launderette*. He asked me to produce it. On the back of that we formed the original Working Title company in 1984."

At 25, Mr Bevan took charge of a £600,000 budget that came directly from the coffers of Channel 4. "I was scared. I didn't know what was going on," he says. "But I learnt that if you get someone good and

bought half of the company.

Mr Bevan forged a new partnership with Eric Fellner, who had a similar background in music video production, and went on to sell the remainder of Working Title to Polygram.

"As someone with an independent spirit, I found losing ownership quite painful. But for the first time in Britain there is a company making films that are consistently of a reasonable scale and being properly distributed."

Working Title now has 32 staff and a mandate to make three or four films for Polygram each year. Mr Bevan says that only one in a thousand ideas, and one in five screenplay developments, makes it into production, with screenplays alone costing up to £475,000 before they are given the green light.

"You have to learn to beg, steal, borrow, put together deals together and really understand the business of film to make it work," Mr Bevan says.

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WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 22 1997

RK

NEWS

Treasury accused of euro profits

■ The Conservatives suggested last night that the Treasury may have profited from the confusion over its stance on a European single currency — and demanded an official investigation.

Peter Lilley, the Shadow Chancellor, has called for City regulators to examine allegedly unusual movements in the markets ahead of recent conflicting press reports on government policy.

Dressing down for modern Tories

■ William Hague's attempt to fashion a modern image for the Conservatives came apart at the seams at the start of a two-day bonding session for MPs. The latest fault line in the party was nothing to do with the usual flashpoint of Europe, but whether to be casual or smart.

Page 1
Children can stay

Two Nigerian children who were ordered to be returned to their natural mother to grow up in their "own race and culture" are now to remain with their white foster mother.

Page 1**Royal cure**

The Prince of Wales launched a debate into the role of complementary medicine, outlining his idea for using therapies alongside conventional medicine.

Page 3**Judge under attack**

A judge charged with his third drink-driving offence faced calls that he were to be convicted, he should be sacked.

Page 9**Nurse accused**

A former nursing assistant at a private old people's nursing home in Copenhagen was charged with the murder of 22 of its residents using pain killers.

Page 12**Solzenitsyn prize**

The Polish laureate Aleksandr Solzenitsyn announced the creation of an annual literature prize in his name to help to reinvigorate Russian writing.

Page 13**Papon defended**

The historian who helped to expose the alleged Nazi collaborator Maurice Papon 16 years ago has claimed that the man accused of sending hundreds of Jews to their deaths saved many from the gas chambers.

Page 14**Art theft saga**

An outlandish tale of art theft — whose cast includes wartime Soviet soldiers, an unsavoury assortment of Azerbaijanis and an apparently dim-witted Japanese businessman — unfolded in a Manhattan court.

Page 15**Rector sex case**

A woman let a friend use her home for a love affair with a clergyman, a court heard but she drew the line when she was invited to join in their bedroom sessions.

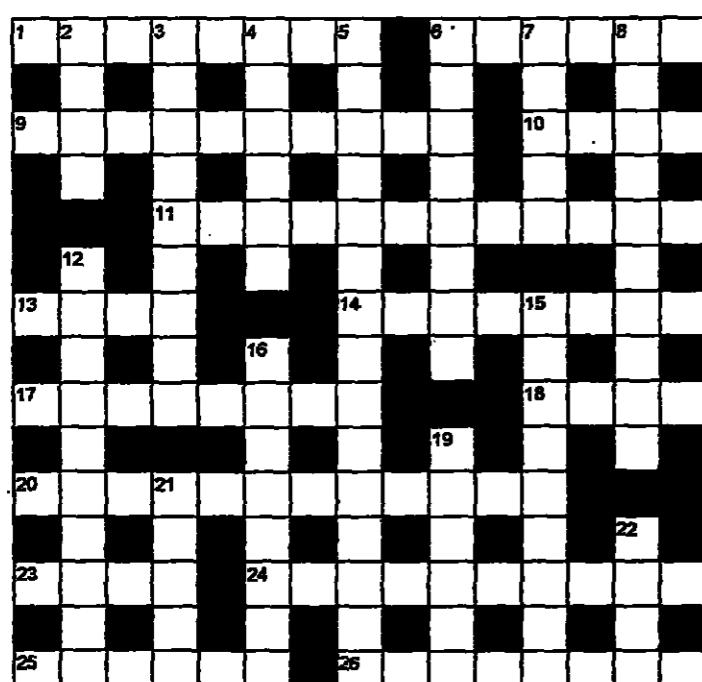
Page 7

Diana record beats White Christmas

■ *Candle in the Wind 1997*, which Elton John performed at the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, in Westminster Abbey, has taken only 37 days to overhaul the sales of Bing Crosby's 1942 hit *White Christmas*. The record has sold 31.8 million worldwide, including 5 million in Britain. The record company is donating its profits to the Diana memorial fund.

Page 1

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Sugar aims to revive Amstrad name

By CHRIS AYRES

THE name Amstrad, still associated in many people's minds with faulty disk drives and word processors the size of small cars, is set to be eradicated by Alan Sugar, who founded the Amstrad electronics empire two decades ago.

The name officially disappeared from the stock market this year when Mr Sugar broke up the struggling company by demerging Viglen, the bespoke computer manufacturer, to focus his attention on Betamax, the consumer electronics business.

Mr Sugar, who is chairman of Betamax and Tottenham Hotspur Football Club, yesterday proposed renaming the company Amstrad at its annual meeting in November.

He said: "The Amstrad name is the predominant brand of Betamax and represents one of the strongest consumer electronics brands in Europe."

After the break-up, Betamax gained the licensing rights to sell all Amstrad, Sinclair and Fidelity household electronics products for three years. It also acquired Amstrad's domestic software business.

Betamax yesterday said pre-tax profit rose 174 per cent in the year to June 30 from £66.6 million to £17.1 million, on turnover of £20 million (£16 million). Earnings per share were 2.12p (0.86p), and a 0.5p final dividend, due on December 5, makes a total of 0.5p.

The company said it had put a new management team in place and in the next few months it would review its current product range and the future direction of the company.

TOURIST RATES

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Austria Hfl	1.25	1.20
Belgium Fr	55.35	58.40
Canada \$	2.365	2.205
Cyprus Cyp.	0.901	0.830
Denmark Kr	11.70	10.50
Finland Mark	9.25	8.55
France Fr	10.25	9.55
Germany DM	3.05	2.84
Greece Dr	0.95	0.90
Hong Kong \$	13.49	12.29
Iceland Kr	1.29	1.08
Ireland P	1.17	1.14
Israel Sheq	6.00	5.43
Italy Lira	3025	2785
Japan Yen	111.85	104.20
Malta L	0.47	0.45
Netherlands Gld	3.475	3.185
New Zealand \$	2.72	2.48
Norway Kr	12.25	11.42
Portugal Esc	300.00	267.00
S Africa Rand	1.39	1.43
Spain Pta	257.25	238.50
Sweden Kr	12.50	12.00
Switzerland Fr	2.50	2.28
Turkey Lira	304.970	285.000
USA \$	1.741	1.598

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays PLC. Details apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

CBI delivers warning over skill shortages

By PHILIP BASSETT AND ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE Confederation of British Industry gave warning yesterday that interest rates and inflation spending will cause the economy to slow sharply. GDP growth will slip from 3.5 per cent this year to 2 per cent in 1998, while inflation will remain close to the target measure of 2.5 per cent.

The NIESR predicts that the Bank of England will raise rates from 7 per cent to a peak of 7.5 per cent next year, although it argues that rate rises are unnecessary. But the Institute says that there is still a 25 per cent chance of the economy will enjoy a "soft landing" next year and there is no need to raise rates.

The NIESR said the strong survey showed growth in total and domestic orders slowing

over the past four months, but business confidence rising marginally — perhaps reflecting, according to the CBI, the fall-back in sterling since the summer.

Andrew Buxton, chairman of Barclays Bank and head of the CBI's economic affairs committee, said: "Inflationary pressures in manufacturing remain subdued, with unit costs and prices firmly under control, so we believe that interest rates can stay on hold for now."

However, he gave warning that a build-up of "potential inflationary worries", including skill shortages, were beginning to feed through into higher earnings growth and

could force the Bank of England to raise rates.

Export orders continued to decline, falling to their lowest level since July 1991. The CBI gave warning that although the fall-off has not yet appeared in the official figures, businesses are likely to feel the impact of strong sterling over the next 12 months.

The NIESR also forecasts a sharp slowdown in exports, arguing that there is little credible evidence that UK exporters will ride the rise in the pound. The NIESR says that exporters cannot "indefinitely postpone facing up to the high exchange rate and are likely to suffer from a fall in price competitiveness next year."

The Government is to phase out the tax relief on profit-related pay (PRP), withdrawing it fully by January 2000. According to a survey today by the Institute of Personnel and Development, more than a third of companies currently operating PRP schemes registered with the Inland Revenue intend to discontinue them when the tax relief is abolished.

Conal Ryden, pay policy adviser with the IPD, which opens its annual conference in Harrogate today, said: "The phasing-out of profit-related pay schemes is likely to increase wage pressures in the UK economy as employees demand compensation for loss of income."

The survey of 1,800 organisations shows that only 16 per cent of firms plan to continue PRP schemes without tax relief, and 13 per intend to bring in a new, taxable scheme.

But almost a third plan to consolidate their PRP schemes into basic pay — negating the entire effect of the plan, which was originally aimed at increasing pay flexibility.

Half the firms with schemes say PRP payments now account for 3-10 per cent of their wage bill, and many businesses are still registering schemes to "cash in" on tax benefits before they are scrapped, according to the IPD.

Abolition of tax relief will push up wage bills

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

WAGE pressures are set to rise with the Government's planned abolition of the tax relief on profit-related pay as employees seek compensation for loss of income, personnel managers will say today.

Business leaders forecast a possible further rate rise yesterday stemming from inflationary pressures coming from a tightening labour market, and personnel managers today add force to concerns about rising wages.

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Redrow out to build near Hyundai plant

REDROW, the housebuilder, aims to cash in on Hyundai's plans for a £1.3 billion microchip plant at Dunfermline, Fife, after securing land to build up to 1,600 houses in the area. The company is set to spend up to £10 million on a range of accommodation to prepare for the property boom expected once Hyundai's memory chip development gets under way.

Paul Pedley, Redrow's managing director, said that it was one of the few organisations that knew the Hyundai plant had the capacity for four microchip factories employing 3,200 workers. Hyundai has so far only publicised plans for two £650 million microchip plants creating 1,600 jobs. Redrow bought rights to land from a local property owner for £100,000 and will pay him for every plot it intends to build on. It has promised to buy at least 70 acres of the 140-acre site, but has given no minimum commitment about how many homes it will build. The rival housebuilder Wilson (Connolly) has won consent to build 3,500 homes in the area.

Beauford acquisition

BEAUFORD, the ceramics manufacturer, is to acquire Allied Insulators from Fairley Group for a maximum of £9 million in cash. The initial consideration consists of a cash payment of £1.3 million and the assumption of an intercompany loan of £6.7 million. A further profit-related payment of up to £1 million may be due after 1998. Beauford is raising £9 million by way of a placing and open offer of new shares at 26½p, each, against yesterday's unchanged closing price of 29½p.

Incepta half-year leap

INCEPTA, the marketing and communications group that last year merged with Citigate, the financial public relations company, more than doubled pre-tax profits in the six months to August 31 from £1.1 million to £2.6 million. Turnover rose from £8.6 million to £43.1 million. Earnings per share rose 36 per cent from 0.58p to 0.79p. A final dividend of 0.35p is forecast. The company said that current trading remained buoyant.

Smiths chief's options

SIR ROGER HURN, chairman of Smiths Industries, the engineering group, yesterday made a profit of £784,590 on the exercise of options over shares in it. He effectively bought 173,582 shares in Smiths at 45½p and sold at 90½p. He was granted the options on 21 October 1994 and yesterday was the first day he could exercise his option. He had until 21 October 2004 to act. Sir Roger still has 163,518 shares in Smiths, worth almost £1.5 million at yesterday's closing price of 910p, up 7p.

Mirror deal approved

MIRROR GROUP'S plans to buy Midland Independent Newspapers, the regional publisher, have been approved by the Department of Trade and Industry. The decision was announced by Nigel Griffiths, Competition and Consumer Affairs Minister, after the Monopolies and Mergers Commission concluded the deal would not operate against the public interest. Among MID's titles are the Birmingham Post and Evening Mail.

Pound hits toiletries firm

PATERSON ZOCHONIS, the toiletries and household products company with extensive interests overseas, lifted pre-tax profits to £30.2 million, from £29.17 million, in the year to May 31, despite suffering a £2 million hit from the impact of sterling's strength. Earnings per share rose 43.09p to 38.06p. The final dividend is cut to 11.7p from 13.35p, making a total of 17.2p (16p). Turnover fell to £350.35 million from £361 million, with the strong pound reducing sales by £34 million.

Delay for Fortune Oil

FORTUNE OIL said that a joint venture with China Aviation Oil Supply Corporation and Vital to provide aircraft services in central and southern China will not now be completed until the end of 1997 because of delays in an environmental audit of the 16 airports. A July rights issue raised £24.4 million for the venture. Fortune yesterday reported pre-tax profits of £2.28 million (£1.7 million for the half year to June 30). Earnings per share were 0.14p (0.13p). There is again no dividend.

Nikko faces suspension

JAPAN'S Finance Ministry is to suspend Nikko Securities from bond underwriting after the arrest of two former executives for alleged illegal payments to a corporate racketeer. Nikko holds about 3.28 per cent of the underwriting syndicate for government bonds, the largest share of all the main securities houses. The pair are charged with violating Japan's criminal code banning payments to racketeers. A complaint was also filed by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Government set for competition rethink

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government announced yesterday that it will, if necessary, amend its own legislation reforming Britain's competition laws to meet legitimate proposals from business to improve the new law.

The Government last week published the Bill to reform competition policy by adopting a prohibitive approach to anti-competitive practices, bringing UK law into line with European competition legislation.

While ministers accepted some proposals from business leaders amending its draft version of the Bill, they rejected a number of central claims

New regulator told to put customers first

AN INDEPENDENT consumer panel yesterday called for the new investor watchdog to have as its first priority the protection of individual investors, not the promotion of the business of City firms. The watchdog should also assume responsibility for mortgages and long-term care insurance which are both at present unregulated (Anne Ashworth writes).

Barbara Saunders, chairman of the Personal Investment Authority Consumer Panel, an independent body, said: "People need to know that the new financial services regulator will have their interests at heart."

Abbey and NatWest to be investigated over dumped papers

By RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

A DATA privacy watchdog is to investigate Abbey National and NatWest Bank after a bundle of confidential client documents were found dumped in a Plymouth street.

David Smith, assistant pay protection registrar, said yesterday that he would investigate whether the banks' controls were up to scratch.

If the watchdog does uncover a serious breach of data protection rules, Abbey National and NatWest could both face enforcement orders, or in the worst case unlimited fines.

The bundle of documents, including details of client names, addresses, credit cards and bank accounts, were discovered behind a multi-storey car park in Plymouth by Gary Connett, 29, a builder.

Mr Connett came across similar details of Halifax accounts at the same place

several months ago. An investigation by the registrar revealed that a firm of contract cleaners had failed to dispose of the documents properly.

He said: "It seems it is standard practice for building societies and banks to throw away customers' personal bank information with the normal rubbish. You would have thought in this day and age that anything from a bank or building society would be shredded, however small, or unimportant."

NatWest said it was difficult on the available evidence to assess whether the bank had broken any rules, but its staff would co-operate with the investigation. Abbey National said: "We will immediately review how we dispose of documentation for our branches and apologise if any breach of confidentiality rule has been caused."

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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSIONER: THE CHARITY COMMISSIONER FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE COMMISSIONER FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, WHEREAS THE APPLICANT HAS MADE AN APPLICATION TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE CHARITY, THE NAME OF WHICH IS "THE ST. MARY'S CHILDREN'S HOME TRUSTEE LTD", AS SET OUT IN THE ATTACHED DOCUMENTS.

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Tony Blair was not at home when a delegation of pit owners turned up at 10 Downing Street last week. He was genuinely otherwise engaged in Dublin, which was just as well, since he had run into the visitors on their way to talk to the head of the policy unit, they might have fallen on their knees and appealed to the Prime Minister's better nature. Walking past would have been embarrassing.

All the indications are, however, that Mr Blair is steering himself to the embarrassment of heading a Labour Government which presides over the death of most of Britain's coal industry, and the miners' jobs within it.

And the growing realisation that miners do not have enough votes to matter is causing embarrassment well beyond Downing Street and Smith Square. In particular, there is some squirming in the offices of stockbrokers Dresdner Kleinwort Benson. This is the firm whose condemnatory circular on RJB Mining helped to reduce the company's value by more than a quarter yesterday. The document shrieked with all the certainty of the convert.

For it was just a few months ago that same firm produced a deliciously bullish circular on RJB, full of juicy dividend projections and optimistic share price

projections. The broker's view was coloured by the belief that Labour in government would be supportive to the coal industry.

Well, highly paid analysts are expected to take a view on the economic climate within which companies must operate, but their political antennae may not always be tuned to the right wave.

New Labour is not going to come to the rescue of Richard Budge and his shareholders. The realisation of that has persuaded Kleinwort that instead of profits hitting £147 million in 1999, they will now be doing well to make £62 million that year and could have shrunk to £24 million by 2004.

Now it reckons that the shares are worth no more than £1 but when it issued its buy circular in April, the price was £4.12. Even after New Labour strode into office, it continued to believe that the party would look after the coal industry and, as recently as September, was still recommending a purchase of the shares.

Investors would have been better advised to follow the example of Richard Budge, who took the chance to offload a parcel of around 400,000 shares in July last year when the price was at the never to be repeated level of 553p. But Mr Budge held onto most of his stock, around 3.5 million shares. His belief Labour would not risk the embarrassment of closing the pits has cost him a fortune.

The National Institute argues that the problem with the ERM was not joining at a CBI-approved central parity of 2.95 marks but that ERM currencies as a whole were too high in 1990-92. At the time, it seemed rather different. Britain was stuck far in recession because our duty to keep sterling up stopped Norman Lamont cutting interest rates as fast as he should. Sterling certainly went in at too high an interest rate.

The same conundrum would have faced euro entry this century and may well continue into the next. In their latest sectioning of the economy, NIESR's Martin Wheale and Garry Young argue that sterling is overvalued in spite of the seeming health of exports and the lack of an import surge. This is only a matter of time, they say, due to lags caused by hedging currencies. Even

before Mr Brown and his merry men sent the pound back up to DM2.92, NIESR calculated that the UK's pattern of higher interest rates implied that financial markets expect sterling to settle at about DM2.63 in five years time. But allowing for changes in relative labour costs and competitiveness, NIESR reckons DM2.50 might be a fairer parity.

In other words, British consumers might be able to change their pounds for anything between 1.25 and 1.5 euros a time. Given a choice, voters might take a different view from exporters of the best parity.

All this shows how crazy it is to link inextricably with another currency before shadowing it well in advance. This is the only process likely to hasten convergence of economic cycles.

On economic grounds, therefore, Mr Brown has no chance of

COMMENTARY by our City Editor

one in any doubt about the priority that should be accorded to the exercise and the timetable that should be met.

The Pru has consistently missed the deadlines for dealing with its backlog of cases. Yesterday the hints from the company were that the change of personnel following the ousting of Jim Sutcliffe might improve things. But if Sir Peter chooses to broadcast to the nation that he is the Man from the Pru, and a guardian angel, then he might have glanced down from on high every so often to ensure that the pensions issue was being dealt with efficiently.

As he maps out the course for the new Super-SIB, Howard Davies needs to find a way to persuade busy chaps like Sir Peter to pay attention.

Dangling carrots

After two years of haggling, Russia and De Beers have come to an agreement over diamond sales. Despite both sides' efforts to put a Hatton Garden polish on the deal, it looks dangerously flawed. In theory, Russia will no longer furtively leak gems onto the market, so depressing the price, but less than half its production is likely to go to De Beers. Tracking the rest may keep the De Beers detectives fully occupied for the brief life of the accord.

Pharmaceuticals deliver rapid growth at SB

By PAUL DURMAN

RAPID GROWTH in pharmaceutical sales in the US enabled SmithKline Beecham to deliver another strong set of quarterly figures, with underlying pre-tax profits increasing by 14 per cent to £427 million.

US sales of several of SB's biggest-selling drugs grew by more than 35 per cent, including the antibiotic Augmentin (up 36 per cent), the hepatitis B vaccine Egenix-B (40 per cent) and the antidepressant Paxil (40 per cent).

An ebullient Jan Leschly, chief executive, said: "It was a hell of a good quarter. Our new products were up 41 per cent. Both Augmentin and Paxil/Seroxat have already sold \$1 billion this year."

The strength of the pound took the gloss off the results, pinning back third-quarter pre-tax profits to £363 million, a 3 per cent rise on last year. After nine months, SB has made pre-tax profits of £1.16 billion. This is a 5 per cent increase on 1996, and equiva-

lent to a 16 per cent improvement excluding currencies.

SB's pharmaceuticals arm increased quarterly profits by 11 per cent to £263 million, ignoring currencies. European sales grew by only 8 per cent compared to 21 per cent in the US. Mr Leschly said the US healthcare system had recognised that new drugs were extremely cost-effective because they could reduce

other costs of looking after patients. He said regulators took a tougher line on expensive new drugs: "It's a very short-term view," he said. "That will change over time."

A third-quarter dividend of 2.205p a share will be paid on December 31, made up of a conventional dividend of 0.98p and a foreign income dividend of 1.225p.

Mr Leschly said that SB is up against tough comparisons in the final quarter of the year, but pledged: "We will still deliver double-digit earnings per share growth."

Clinical Laboratories, the US medical testing business, improved profits by 26 per cent to £24 million — the result of improved efficiency, Mr Leschly said.

SB is involved in several class actions in the US being brought against Fastin and other similar dieting drugs that have recently been linked to heart valve problems. Mr Leschly said that Fastin had sales of only £3.75 million.

He had no news on the much larger legal claim being brought against Clinical Laboratories in a dispute about overcharging. SB is contesting the claim.

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Jan Leschly, SB chief executive feeling ebullient

Budgens buys £5.8m 7-Eleven stores

BUDGENS, the supermarkets company, has paid £5.8 million to buy 57 7-Eleven convenience stores from Jardine Matheson, the conglomerate based in Hong Kong. The deal sent Budgens shares up 3p to a record 52½p (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The stores are currently run under licence from Southland Corporation of

the US. The licence will run out in April next year, by which time the stores will have been renamed. John von Spreckelsen, chief executive of Budgens, said that a name for the stores has not yet been agreed.

Turnover this year for the 7-Eleven stores is expected to reach £55 million, with the stores breaking even. Mr von

Spreckelsen said that costs should come down under Budgens ownership, so they should quickly move into profit.

He said that Budgens, which has 117 branches, wants to further expand its convenience store operations as well as continue with the planned expansion of its chain of petrol forecourt stores and its traditional Budgens stores.

Body Shop takes charge in France

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

AMERICAN plumbers and builders dominated the full-year results announced yesterday by Wolseley, the international building materials distributor.

Wolseley saw an 8.8 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £264.2 million in the year to July 31.

The company said that the strong pound had reduced profits by £11.3 million.

US distribution businesses contributed more than 50 per cent of trading profits, accounting for £133 million of the £264.4 million total.

John Young, chief executive, highlighted "tremendous organic growth" at Ferguson, Wolseley's biggest US company, but said the growth rate might be difficult to sustain.

The European distribution arm's profits rose 0.7 per cent to £98.5 million amid tough continental markets and the patchiness of the UK recovery. Wolseley expects better performance in the UK this year.

Profit dipped 2 per cent at the manufacturing arm and Wolseley admitted its photographic supplies business was being hit by the rapid advances in digital cameras.

A final dividend of 5.1p (7.25p) will be paid on January 30, 1998, making a total of 11.4p per share (10.35p).

have now gone out of business, have lost legal cases brought against GW Holdings in the French courts. Two further cases against GW Holdings are pending.

The Body Shop itself will take over running the French business from the beginning of next month. No money will change hands between The Body Shop and GW Management.

"We are now hoping to improve relations with the French franchisees," a Body Shop spokeswoman said. "We want to be able to get supplies to them more quickly, fit new systems, perhaps put our new shop designs into the Paris stores and appoint a French general manager as quickly as possible."

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STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

Sets increases volatility among blue-chip shares

EVIDENCE has begun to emerge that Sets, the new order-driven trading system, is increasing volatility among blue-chip shares.

Word is that the London Stock Exchange is also coming under intense pressure to provide a central settlement system to cope with the expected surge in trading volume.

One matter that did emerge from recent dress rehearsals was the amount of time being taken up by retail brokers in processing transactions. The purchase or sale of large lines of stock under the new system of matching buyers with sellers can result in the broker being forced to arrange settlement with half a dozen different brokers. This takes time and pushes up costs.

There are also signs that the system will lead to sharp, unexpected price movements.

This was the case with Bank of Scotland yesterday when the system kicked in at the start of trading. There was a long queue of buyers at one end of the screen, but no sellers ready to offer stock at the other. The result was a 21p rise in the price to 540p after briefly touching 545p.

Share prices generally enjoyed a better session, although they closed below their best of the day. Having opened almost 50 points higher, the FTSE 100 index showed signs of running out of steam towards the close.

This was in spite of a 100-point rally by the Dow Jones Industrial average in New York last night. The index in London closed 14.9 up at 5,259, with turnover sharply up on Monday's depressed levels at the launch of Sets. A total of 730 million shares had changed hands by the close.

Royal Bank of Scotland failed to make the most of an eagerly awaited presentation, falling 5p to 697p. The company was positive about prospects, but unable to fuel further gains after the recent strong run by the shares.

ICI was 21p firmer at 949 in spite of talk of a profit downgrading by Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, before third-quarter results tomorrow. NatWest Markets expects pre-tax profits to plunge from £313 million to £151 million.

RJB Mizuho 561p (23.5 per cent) to 1831p after a warning that profits could be down 90 per cent by 2004. Pearson, the publisher and



Alan Peterson, left, and John Dobby, of Meyer International

owner of Madame Tussauds, firmed 3p to 820p after a presentation on Monday on the situation at Penguin publishing.

Harrison & Crosfield, 3p better at 1341p, has confirmed the sale of its builders' supplies arm and details of a proposed £359 million cash handback to shareholders. It is pressing ahead with the sale of Harcos to Meyer Interna-

tional for £318 million. The money will be used to pay a special dividend of at least 50p a share. Other disposals are planned.

Meyer, of which John Dobby is chief executive and Alan Peterson chief operating officer, was down 10p to 400p. The company intends to fund the acquisition of Harcos with a one-for-four rights issue at 360p.

BICC touched a low for the day of 179p before rallying to close 16p down on the day at 1841p. Merrill Lynch has downgraded the shares to a "sell". A profits warning took its toll at Betacomm, down 7p to 40p.

A decision by one director to shares in the company lifted Primestart, the advertising agency, 12p to 1371p. Robin Black, a non-executive director, has bought 20,000 shares for £25p.

PizzaExpress again lost ground finishing 10p off at 799p as directors continued selling shares in the company.

In the past few days a group of them, including Luke Johnson, chairman, have sold a total of 618,000 shares.

■ GILT-EDGED: It was a day of consolidation in the bond market after Monday's shake-out that stemmed from the uncertainty over the date of Britain's entry into the single European currency.

Prices traded in narrow limits for much of the day before a late sell-off left longer dated issues nursing losses of about 1%.

In the futures pit, the December series of the Long Gilt finished seven ticks lower at 11811/2 as a total of 67,000 contracts were completed. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 lost £16 at 116141/2, while among shorter dated issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was unchanged at 1031/2.

YESTERDAY'S sharp fall in share prices overnight in Hong Kong hit those blue chip companies in London with a big Far East exposure. Overnight the Hang Seng index tumbled 567 points, to 12,403.1.

The losers included Standard Chartered, down 22p at 746p, Cable & Wireless, down 16p to 517p, HSBC, down 16p to 183.55, and Blue Circle, down 12p to 36p.

Investors in the former British colony fear that the Hong Kong dollar will come under pressure, and that this will lead to a rise in interest rates. So far, the

Hang Seng index has recovered.

Jonathan Compton, who follows events in the former colony for Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, says that there is reason to be concerned, but he is optimistic about the outcome.

Hong Kong investors have seen their currency sold down to nothing many times this century. They know what is at stake.

"If they don't sit tight, they are dead. I think they know that," Mr Compton said.

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Source: Datamonitor

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The nation lives in hope of the body politic returning to something like normality. We are promised that Gordon Brown will soon make an unequivocal statement to Parliament on his single currency policy. The current witch-hunt against spin doctors (brought entirely upon themselves) will die down and attention will revert to the ministers who were elected in May and who are supposed to be running the country. Then, perhaps, Britain can start thinking rationally about what life outside economic and monetary union is going to be like for the next five years.

Any cost benefit analysis for business is difficult because of the great unknowns ahead. Primarily, but not exclusively, these are macroeconomic. Nobody knows whether the collective jump into the abyss called economic and monetary union will be a success. Will Europe be a deflationary unemployment black spot controlled by an inflation-obsessed European Central Bank and without the political will to embrace

flexibility and tackle Europe's sources of uncompetitiveness? Or will EMU act as a catalyst for greater growth through structural reform, for deepening the single market, for the creation of super-efficient conglomerates, and for price transparency that will benefit consumers? Nobody knows how the EMU-zone will develop.

Outside the zone, Britain may have a cripplingly overvalued exchange rate and high interest rates at times. Inside, it loses its economic sovereignty and flexibility forever. But it is important for business to move on from these ideological debates to how to react to the euro when it comes.

Even with the possibility of joining the euro dangled ominously in front of them, British companies have been extremely reluctant to invest in the new systems and managerial time needed to prepare. Barclays

Bank's latest survey of British firms who already do business on the continent showed that 65 per cent had done nothing to prepare and, of these, 60 per cent had no intention of doing anything. This appalling lack of foresight – understandable though it is because of the huge costs involved – will now become more entrenched.

Another risk for British business of staying out is that Europe has already started a process of building cross-border businesses with the promise of great economies of scale. British firms are unlikely to be the favoured candidates for takeover or merger. David Owen, of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, believes that the euro-zone will offer much stiffer competition to British firms than in the past. At least within the zone some of our horribly backward engineering companies could be saved at a

decent price per share in a take-over. Outside the zone, these companies will simply fail.

The greatest fear of business is that the euro-club will increasingly make policy which discriminates against those outside. In this context the British Chambers of Commerce and the CBI have this week been clinging desperately to the hope that Mr Brown will emphasise the Government's positive view of EMU at some stage in

the future. Although this introduces yet more uncertainty, it is important to go on making positive noises about the euro in principle and keep hostility from the "ins" at bay.

Now that the Government has made its decision on Europe – at least for this Parliament – the time has come for a hard-headed look at how to maximise Britain's advantages and minimise its disadvantages. One potential negative is an overvalued, volatile currency that makes it difficult for business to plan. Some, including Andrew Sentance of the London Business School, suggest that Britain should put its understandable prejudices to one side and sign up to an ERM II with wide enough bands to keep some exchange rate flexibility. The theoretical beauty of this idea is that Britain would reassure its European partners that it would not indulge in competitive devaluation.

Plainly, this would be difficult to sell to the electorate. But Mr Brown could be doing other things during the period of stability that he now says he wants for Britain after 1999. An analysis of trade flows by Mr Owen finds that Britain has a comparative advantage in services, particularly financial and business services, and in those areas of manufacturing that tend to rely on a high degree of scientific innovation such as telecommunications, pharmaceuticals and computers. Britain is comparatively weak in lower value added manufacturing, notably most engi-

neering businesses. Mr Owen suggests that the Chancellor could improve the odds in Britain's favour by a concerted policy programme improving the competitive potential of those areas where our strength lies. In or out of the euro-zone, this would help British businesses be winners rather than losers from the single market. He could, for example, introduce research and development tax credits, spend more on education and announce further cuts in corporation tax rates in the transitional period ahead.

The Conservative Party would be bound to campaign against "picking winners" and "old-fashioned Labour interventionism". But Mr Brown has a duty to ensure that EMU is good for Britain as long as it stays out and good for Britain if it ever joins. With a thumping great parliamentary majority, he has the mandate to do whatever he sees fit. Business may not know exactly it stands on EMU, but at least the Government would be managing the uncertainty to their advantage.

Brown needs to act for the sake of business



JANET BUSH

RJB must play a red-hot poker game to salvage its coal mines

Despite pit closures the future for mining is not all black, says Martin Waller

There is a frequent joke in children's cartoons that has a character running over a cliff and then treading happily in mid-air until he or she looks down, notices for the first time the lack of any support – and plunges to the ground.

Some share prices act in exactly the same fashion, trading for months or years at values that have no justification in the real world until the City, collectively, looks down, and they plummet. Yesterday's tumble for RJB Mining shares may have been prompted by a research note from Dresdner Kleinwort Benson that switched from advising clients to buy the shares to advising a sale. But there was little in the note that the market should not already have known, even if it took a worst-case view of the uncertainties affecting the company.

The March 31 deadline that the company faces for the renegotiation of three quarters of its supply contracts to the power generators has been in the diary since before RJB was floated on the stock market even in 1993. Those contracts were brokered by the last Government between the generators and British Coal on terms sufficiently attractive to ensure the latter's successful sale, even at the expense of electricity prices.

They were so-called take-or-pay contracts by which the power industry had to take 28 million tonnes of coal a year, the majority of RJB's output, whether or not there was enough demand for electricity to require the coal to be burned, and to pay for the stuff come what may.

Now, with a competitive market in electricity looming, most of British Coal in the hands of RJB and a new Government in power, the rules have changed. There may be a piquant irony in seeing Richard Budge, the RJB



Richard Budge, chief executive of RJB, will have to play a clever hand in negotiations with power generators

chief executive and epitome of the go-getting Thatcherite entrepreneur, asking Labour to tilt the playing field against the burning of gas, because this would gain his company more attractive terms from the generators and higher profits.

There may be an equal irony in that same Labour Government using robust free-market principles to justify a refusal to come to the help of the coal mines – and what remains of the National Union of Miners, which was once dubbed "the Coldstream Guards of the Labour movement".

But these ironies still leave Mr Budge playing a game of poker with the main generators, National Power, PowerGen and Energy Group, a new player in the industry which contains about 12 per cent of the country's generating capacity, along with its biggest electricity distributor, formerly known as Eastern.

The rules of the game are simple enough. The high

point and the depressed market for coal internationally mean imported fuel is available at 110p for the amount required to produce a gigajoule of power, the normal benchmark. Whatever happens to sterling, the world market will stay flat because reduced demand from the now deflated Asian "tiger economies" will see to that.

RJB can pull the stuff off the ground at something approaching 120p a gigajoule and has to negotiate a price above this from the generators to run from next spring to make a profit. Mr Budge has some cards to play; particularly in the Midlands where his pits are near to existing generating plant and so have an inbuilt pricing advantage to the imported product.

Meanwhile, the power industry would gain no benefit from bankrupting his company and causing widespread pit closures by being too tough. The world market for

coal could rise, sterling could fall, or the price of gas could go up. One day, years hence, the industry might again need those closed pits.

There is a parallel with retailers like Marks & Spencer, with a vested interest in allowing their suppliers to remain profitable – if only just.

Charles Kermot at Paribas is the only analyst in the City who studies RJB in any depth and who still has the shares on his buy list, at a price of up to £2 or more. He believes that after a couple of years the company should return to reasonable profits. "The generators know they have got to keep RJB in business to supply the coal, so they have to give it a 10 per cent margin."

His own profits model assumes Mr Budge achieves 125p a gigajoule next spring, which some might think optimistic.

But he says that even if this price falls to 120p, some inbuilt falls in operating expenses would reduce the cost of production to nearer 110p a gigajoule, so offering RJB the necessary profit margin. That price will not be fixed for the entire duration of the new contracts, allowing for some upwards amendment each year if the market will bear it.

As well as Ashford, the one-time super-pit whose closure attracted unfavourable publicity in the summer, development at three other pits is being stopped. Therefore, these can be run for cash for the next 18 months before a decision has to be taken on closure. This, says Mr Kermot, gives RJB some leeway to ride out the lean years.

His own profits forecasts, however, see pre-tax earnings falling from £192 million this year and £118 million in 1998 to just £45 million in 1999 – on the basis of an unknown outcome to those price negotiations.

just see a thin column of smoke over Holborn Bars as they burn the originals.

In the bunker

REMEMBER Jürgen Schneider, the fugitive German who gave wigs a bad name? At his Frankfurt trial Schneider has admitted faking a DM2 million security for loans. He claims, ingeniously, that the banks must have gone along with his little charade because the bill was so "completely crazy" that a bank professional could not possibly have been deceived by it. Just don't try this defence in London, Herr Schneider.

beautiful conquest: Yours. Consider me duly conquered.

Bank error

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Fools' gold

STRANGE dealings down on the farm. Genius the cattle breeder, is refusing to discuss a tentative takeover offer. The business likes to think of itself as the friend of the dairy farmer and a bulwark against those money-grabbing venture capitalists at Alchemy.

Those farmers should note that Genius' directors are not shy of a bit of money-making themselves. They bought shares sold through the firm's clumsy dealing mechanism at a fraction of their current value: 62,000 last year at prices around 50p. Alchemy's

approach values them at around 120p. Richard Wood, chief executive, and three other directors are also showing a nice profit on 215,000 share options priced at close to 50p. Wood says other shareholders were entitled to buy as well. But one fact remains: 50p was a good price for the directors to buy, but 120p seems too low, for them to sell.

METAL BULLETIN has bought a 15 per cent stake in something called Lamp Technologies, which provides Internet services. A strangely low-tech name for a high-tech company. Shouldn't it be called something like Nexus, or Syncron, or even our old friend Xcel? There was once a computer firm called Gandalf, which proves that old hippies tend to end up in computers. Then I learn that Lamp's founder is one Aladdin Abughazaleh.

Ever been ad-

"I'M YOUR guardian angel. In 30 years you could be living off a boat with a little help from



— or running that little cheese shop in the Cotswolds, or writing that novel...? No, I'm not sure I can go on. It is all too awful, like one of those Berlin Cornfield ads you do sincerely want to be rich come-ons. It is, of course, Sir Peter Davis, of the Prudential.

Nothing about "in 30 years you could still be trying to extract a halfway decent living for your retirement", I quote from those commercials featuring Davis that broke new ground, showing the man behind the product, if you recall. Don't expect a return after yesterday's "broadside" from the SIB which does not spare the chief executive. In fact, you can



Schneider: bewigged fugitive

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30 UNIT TRUST PRICES

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Trim whodunnit woos popcorn punters

Can a night of murder, mystery and shampoo attract a new audience to the theatre? Daniel Rosenthal reports

For West End producers and their counterparts in subsidised theatre the question has long been: "How can we attract new and, in particular, younger audiences to our plays?" This year, their search for answers is taking some unprecedent turns.

Off stage, classic and contemporary dramas are being promoted with techniques borrowed from nightclubs and Hollywood; even the Royal Shakespeare Company has launched a poster campaign aimed, it seems, at lads of the most laddish persuasion. On stage, Ben Elton's *Popcorn* and Mark Ravenhill's *Shopping* and *Scissor Happy* have persuaded thousands of twenty-somethings to buy their first tickets on Shaftesbury Avenue. Now comes *Scissor Happy*, billed as "an entirely new theatrical experience", and squarely targeted at those who believe drama is stuffy and elitist.

Written by the Comedy Store stalwarts Neil Mullarkey, Lee Simpson and Steve Sweeney, *Scissor Happy* is a British version of *Shear Madness*, the 1980 "comedy whodunnit" which became America's longest-running non-musical stage show. The setting is a hairdressing salon, and the first scene involves conversations between two crimpers and three clients which culminate in the off-stage murder of a concert pianist whose incessant Rachmaninov practice has driven all five to distraction.

When a detective arrives, the audience is invited to "direct" a reconstruction of the opening exchanges. After the interval, stalls and circle can cross-examine the characters, arguing for their innocence or guilt. There may be a different culprit each night.

The Comedy Store trio may bring in *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* fans. But Nica Burns, production director for Stoll Moss Theatres, the play's producers, has a wider constituency in her sights.

"One reason we invested in the show was to attract those people — and I've met plenty of them — who insist 'Theatre's boring'! even though they've never seen a play," she says. That attitude, she believes, coupled with theatre's

middle-class image, represents as great a barrier to audience-building as competition from cheaper leisure alternatives, notably cinema.

"*Scissor Happy* can help to

counter this stuffy image. If you don't enjoy your first play,

you can be put off for life. But

the opportunity to join in the

action in a relaxed atmosphere

makes this an ideal first

theatre experience."

Generating repeat business from theatre novices is one of Burns's main goals, which *Scissor Happy* parrots can expect to receive a majorshot promoting Elton's comedy about a

Young people want plays that tackle issues to which they relate

Hollywood director held hostage by the murderers who blame his ultra-violent movies for their killing spree.

For six months it has been attracting young audiences to the Apollo Theatre, many of them for their first West End play. *Shopping*, Ravenhill's visceral portrait of urban degradation, drew a similar crowd and was so popular that it is coming back for an eight-week run at the Queen's from January 21. The two plays, says Burns, "smashed perceptions of what Shaftesbury Avenue represents".

Stoll Moss research reveals the extent of their youth appeal, especially when set against Peter Whelan's *The Herbal Bed*, another fine and successful play written in 1996, but one whose Shakespearean setting was less obviously attractive to the under-30s. At a typical *Popcorn* performance the proportion of the audience aged 25 to 34 was 42 per cent, for *Shopping* 39 per cent, for *Herbal Bed* 12 per cent. In the 19 to 24 age group the gap is even wider: *Popcorn* 17 per cent, *Shopping* 39 per cent, *Herbal Bed* 2 per cent.

Popcorn's "brand awareness" among Elton fans and the controversy about Ravenhill's title make both plays special cases. But, insists Burns, "their success proves young people aren't daunted by price if a play addresses issues to which they relate".

Further evidence comes from the West Yorkshire Playhouse. In April, its high-tech adaptation of Iain Banks's novel, *The Wasp Factory*, was advertised with flyers designed to look like nightclub promotions, and ticketing outlets were set up in Leeds record shops. The result? An unprecedented number of 18-25s turned out. Encouragingly, a sizeable proportion of those same Banks fans bought seats for *Shopping's* two-week Playhouse run in September.

The country's flagship subsidised companies are not immune to the drive for new audiences. The National is attempting to demolish the price barrier. When Martin McDonagh's *The Cripple of Inishmaan* travelled to Norwich in June, patrons were offered a "satisfaction or your money back" guarantee. Bookings went up and nobody claimed the refund.

Now two "Intro Nights"

designed for people who have

never been to the National are

being planned for 1998. All

seats in the three auditoriums

would be available for just £5

or £7. Without sponsorship

that would mean a loss — or,

the National would argue, an investment — of up to £28,000.

The RSC's partial exodus from London in favour of five-week seasons in Newcastle and Plymouth has made audience development an urgent priority, prompting its first television advertising for many years (about £20,000 was spent on 20-second slots in *News At Ten* in the Tyne Tees and West Country regions). But more TV exposure has come, virtually free of charge, via electronic press kits. These pre-packaged blends of director and star interviews and clips have been part of Hollywood's publicity armoury for years, but are a first for the RSC.

"BBC and ITV regional programmes used the kits extensively," says the director of marketing, Stephen Brown-



Bridget Armstrong prepares to pull in the first-time theatregoers in *Scissor Happy*, the new audience-participation show at the Duchess Theatre

THE PLAYS THAT BRING IN YOUNG AUDIENCES

• HOT TICKETS Ben Elton's *Popcorn* (Apollo), David Robe's *Highbury* (Queen's), Patrick Marber's *Closer* (National), Shakespeare's *Othello* (National), Ken Campbell's *Theatre Stories* (National), Reduced Shakespeare Company (Criterion), virtually any show at the Royal Court Theatre

• PREDOMINANTLY WRINKLED Snoo Wilson's *HRH* (Playhouse), Hugh Whitemore's *A Letter of Resignation* (Comedy), Christie's *The Mousetrap* (St Martin's), Sophie's *Electra* (Dionysus Warehouse), Yasmina Reza's *Art* (Wyndham's), Tom Stoppard's *The Invention of Love* (National), Harley Granville-Barker's *Waste* (Old Vic)

• POTENTIAL YOUTH APPEAL Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* (Old Vic), Priestley's *An Inspector Calls* (Garrick), Molière's *The Woman in Black* (Fortune), Wilde's *The Ideal Husband* (Gielgud)

Encore for a tough old bird

She bends her knees, crouches and gives odd, slightly menacing wiggles, as if preparing for a bare-knuckled bout with another Lancashire lass. Her voice jumps from backstreet Blackpool to London posh, turning the simple word "soon" into a three-diphthong journey through spoof Belgravia.

She emits low, loopy chuckles, as if one of the witches from *Macbeth* had mated with a tubercular Woody Woodpecker. Her tongue rolls out and turns tiny somersaults before disappearing back into her pursed mouth. You have to admit that Jean Fergusson's impersonation of the comedian Hylda Baker is terrific.

The one-woman play she has concocted from the Baker files, Baker recordings and Baker memories is entertaining stuff too, though it does suffer from some of the uncertainties of the genre. When you are trying simultaneously to evoke a performer's character,

show her at work onstage and chronicle her background, there is likely to be short change somewhere. In her admirable determination to avoid the plodding "and then, and then" that clogs up many one-person shows, Fergusson left me wanting to know more about the Baker behind the scenes.

Part of the evening she is in an old people's home, feistily clinging on to her status as a star but wishing she could remember her visitors' names. Part of it she spends in her dressing room, signing souvenirs, Baker photos with a rubber stamp, pouring cheap Scotch into an upmarket bottle, and grumbbling to herself as she prepares for an appearance that clearly worries her more than she admits. With reason,

professionalism. She also offers plenty of Baker's trademark Malapropisms — "I was so excited I could have had a coronary trombone" — and quite a lot of her humour. On feeling low: "I've been breathing all day, and I don't think it helps." Of the London Underground: "Wouldn't it be awful if the driver missed the 'ole?" They are the sort of everyday remarks you hear on the bus, but raised to a new level of batty whimsy.

Her father, a comedian who died slowly but horribly of the after-effects of a bang on the head, was clearly the key influence. But what of her mother, six siblings, and the unsatisfactory-sounding men in her life? It's true that Hylda Baker valued her work above all, seriously neglected her relationships, and ended up a lonely woman. You still feel there is a lot of her story waiting to be told.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Jean Fergusson as Hylda

too, for she suffers a horrible moment when onstage. The already creased old face crumples in panic and pain as the words of one of her songs utterly elude her.

Fergusson gives us a portrait of a tough old bird in decline, the more touching because of her perfectionist

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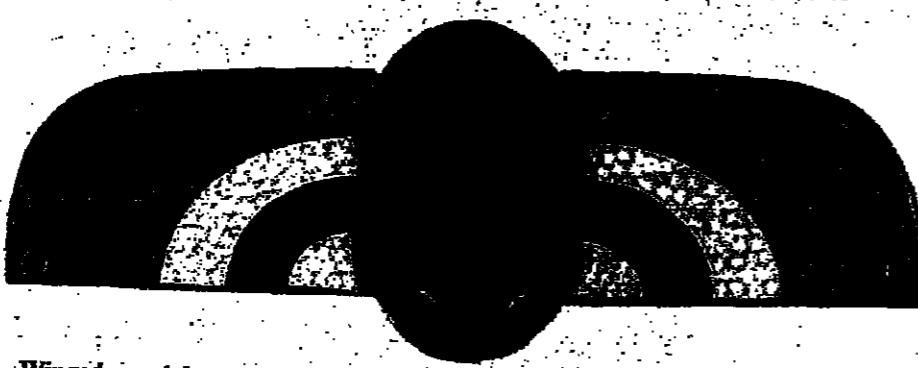
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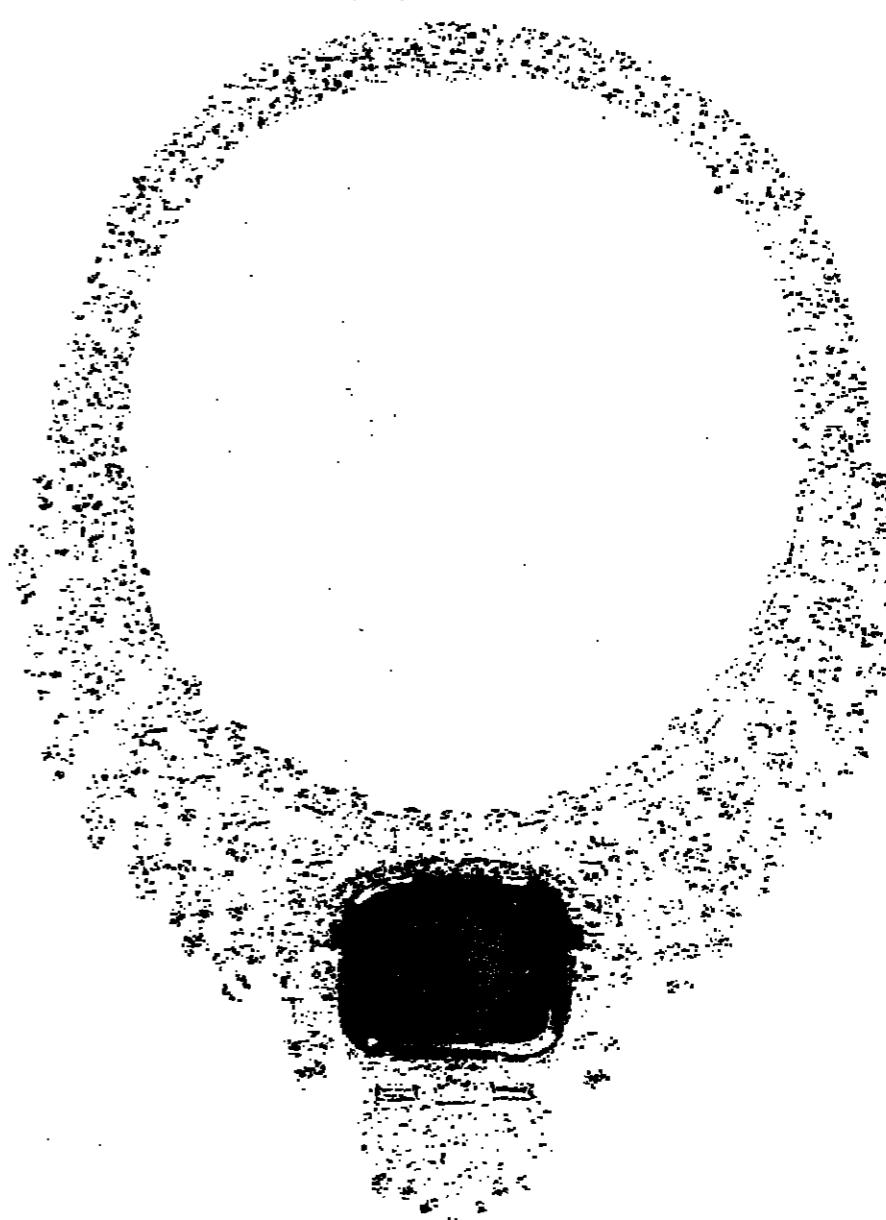
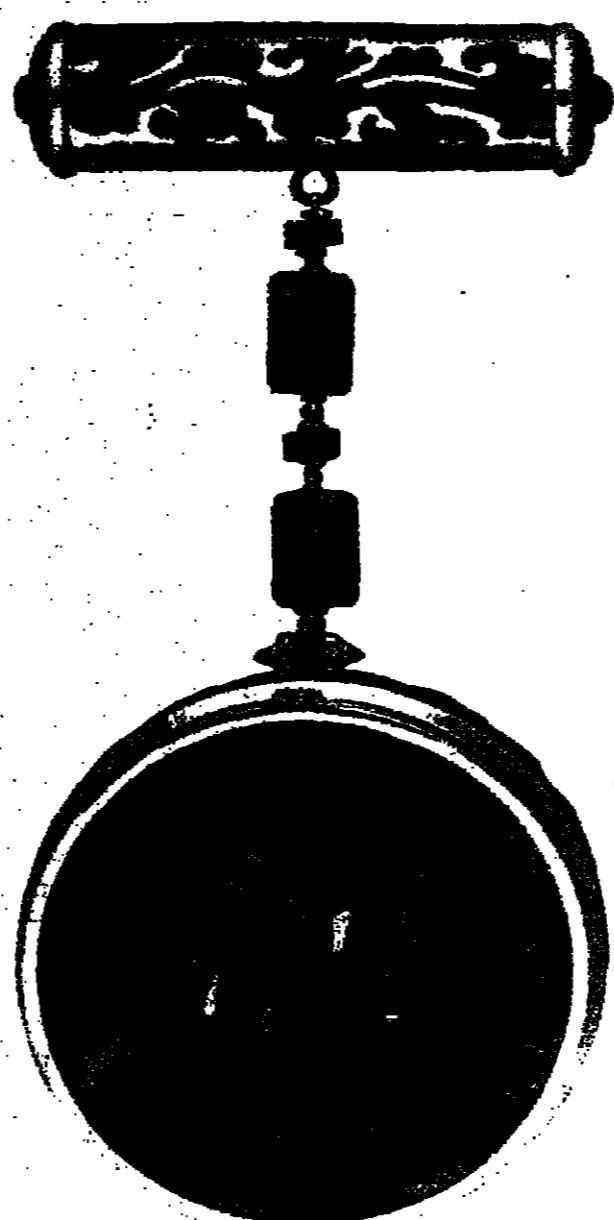
CHANGING TIMES

ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES TOKEN 3

The dazzling Cartier show at the British Museum offers a potted history of 20th-century design, says John Russell Taylor



Winged scarab brooch incorporating Ancient Egyptian faience made for Cartier in 1924



Mirror to the beau monde

The very word "Cartier" is immensely evocative. But of what, precisely? Great riches, of course. Those diamonds that are reputed to be the girl's best friend. The Duchess of Windsor and her famous collection of trophies. And much more in the same vein. But art? Ah, there's the rub. All the usual associations of Cartier products suggest enormous wealth, of course, but possibly, well, just the tiniest bit of vulgarity as well.

If that is the view which the dazzling Cartier exhibition at the British Museum is meant to combat, it succeeds beyond all expectation: Not only is the validation right — you could hardly do much better for an exhibition than to have it first at the Metropolitan Museum in New York and then at the British Museum — but the show itself proves to be all about art. Only in the footnotes — on who owned what, and where and when they wore their prizes — is it about society and display.

The period covered is 1903-1939, the heyday of the firm as a creative force. The company was actually founded in 1847, but it did not move into designing and manufacturing its own product until the end of the century. The famous shop in the Rue de la Paix followed, and after it branches in London and New York. A legend was born.



Pair of love birds, 1910

The first thing the show makes clear is exactly why Cartier has never seemed to have much independent artistic standing. It is because the firm never had a house style. If you mention Fabergé, Tiffany, Lalique, a clear image springs to mind. In fact, Fabergé had several related house styles (it was certainly not all imperial comparable).

No doubt that has been unfortunate for serious reputation-building. But as far as purchasers are concerned an automatic identification with the ultimate in luxury can hardly do any harm. And the situation does wonders for the exhibition.

Since Cartier, from its manufacturing beginnings, was stylistically a feather to each wind that blows, what we find ourselves receiving is little less than a potted history of 20th-century design. Virtually every fashion that moulded the face and figure of the beau monde in the first half of the century is reflected. Not much of Forties austerity, to be sure, but Utile jewellery was hardly in Cartier's line.

The first thing to stand out is what the catalogue tactfully calls "the Russian style". Since it was really in vogue between 1906 and 1918, it is not surprising to find that this is really a polite way of saying imitation Fabergé. Cartier's client list for the 1900s is virtually identical to that of Fabergé, featuring

Powder box and lipstick tube with lacquer plaques, 1927

all the same Russian nobles who were presumably buying such precious knick-knacks as carved animals and flower-pieces made up from semi-precious stones to give to one another. Cartier's flower pieces were usually contained in small glass cases, Fabergé's not, but otherwise it would be impossible to tell them apart.

This phase of direct imitation was fairly short-lived, however. After the Russian revolution Cartier had for obvious reasons very much taken over Fabergé's role in the fashionable world, and there were no real competitors

in their chosen field. Instead, there were outside events to trigger stylistic change. The discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb in 1922 was evidently one of these, though the exhibition makes it clear that this only intensified something already in existence, right through from the large Franco-Egyptian exhibition at the Louvre in 1911.

In any case, exoticism was in. The colourful oriental extravaganzas in the repertory of the Diaghilev Ballet, first seen in Paris in 1910, helped to inspire Indian and Persian collections, and the number of fabulously rich Indian poten-

tates among Cartier's customers also had something to do with it.

The most important pieces in the Chinese or Japanese style date from slightly later, mostly well into the Twenties, and accord very closely with the tastes promulgated in the Paris Exposition des Arts Décoratifs of 1925, which encouraged greater simplicity of outline and subtlety of colour.

The pale green characteristic of the fine jade used in so many Cartier pieces being a colour particularly favoured, along with coral pink and black.

Between the wars, the spe-

cial relationship of Cartier with diamonds is much in evidence. A whole section of the show is devoted to the art and craft of deploying diamonds to maximum effect. It is hereabouts that the big-name clients come to the fore, from Barbara Hutton to Gloria Swanson and even, belatedly, the Duchess of Windsor.

Those who are not totally in thrall to the material may well feel that the gossip value goes up as the aesthetic interest declines. For what, really, can diamonds do except glint and be gay? On the other hand, the Thirties do bring in also a fascinating element of Surreal-

ism, especially through the influence (on clients and so, indirectly, on Cartier's practice) of Elsa Schiaparelli.

For the "Treasures" audience the Cartier show is a must, with oohs and aahs at every step, not to mention the many insights offered into the lives of the rich and famous, if not necessarily the great and the good. But with its incredible variety of material and its mass of documentation, it is something no one seriously interested in the history of design can afford to miss.

• *Cartier is at the British Museum (0171-636 1555) until Feb 1. £4.50, concs £3*

Raw 24-carat emotion

IN AMERICA, where she has sold six million copies of her first album, *Pieces of You*, and graced the covers of *Time* and *Rolling Stone* magazines, Jewel Kilcher has long outgrown the intimate, coffee-house environment in which her talent was nurtured. Yet her music and presentational style remain every bit as straightforward and unvarnished as they have ever been.

On the opening night of a European tour, which will finish at the Shepherds Bush Empire on November 14, the blonde 27-year-old singer and songwriter from Alaska performed with a directness of expression that was at times disconcertingly intense.

Striding wordlessly on to the Bloomsbury stage, she strapped on one of the two acoustic guitars which, barring just one song, provided the sole accompaniment to her voice for the entire set: "Don't

POP

walk too close/Don't breathe so soft/Don't talk so sweet/Don't sing," she sang.

Once the ice was broken, she became more chatty, prefacing certain songs with jokey recollections of traumatic performances in the past, such as the time she faced 1,000 kids in a downtown Detroit high school who were expecting to see the rap act Jev'l.

Her voice combined girlish innocence with womanly wisdom as she negotiated lyrics which often led her to emotional extremes. But the lighter moments — such as "Morning Song" and an a cappella version of Cole Porter's "Too Darn Hot" — were inevitably eclipsed by the

DAVID SINCLAIR

PROLIFIC though he is — to an extent that makes you wonder how Joseph Haydn could have been so idle — Sir Peter Maxwell Davies always finds something in the nature of the project to engage his interest and to stimulate music with its own, in one way or another, distinctive integrity.

In his latest work, first performed by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra with Maxwell Davies himself in Glasgow and Edinburgh last week, the distinction is at the very least, dramatic. Given the subject and the composer's adoptive Scottish credentials, there was every prospect that *The Jacobite Rising* would be a passionate or, at the very least, dramatic score. Indeed, it was received with such evident enthusiasm in the Queen's Hall concert that one must conclude that it does have something of that kind of quality. But to an outsider it just wasn't there.

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From the opening chorus, with words from Muir's "Dreams and Thing" both awkwardly set and awkwardly

Tour of Jacobite duty

sung, it seemed that the composer had this time found little to inspire a more than dutiful rendering of the task in hand. There is a relic of the old Max in a section based on *Hey, Johnnie Cope*, where he approaches the tune obliquely and as he gets to it, by way of an imaginative violin solo, allows disorder to break loose, with not so imaginatively marching feet in the chorus ("Hey, Johnnie Cope, are ye wauking yet?") and different sections of the orchestra going in their own direction. That amused him at least.

There are other striking passages, most of them of a reflective nature with broadening wind solos, some of them featuring a pair of hand horns of an antique warlike colour just about worth the problems involved in playing them. But such passages are mainly in the orchestral interludes. In the word-setting, including

that awarded to the four soloists apparently on nothing more significant than a fair-share-for-all kind of basis, there is little that is illuminating and much that is frankly dreary. The probability is that the texts — compiled not by the composer but by Sir Alastair Grant (who commissioned the work) from Edwin Muir, Wilfrid Owen and Sorley MacLean as well as 18th-century and traditional sources — are too disparate to have stimulated the underlying consistency in style or atmosphere or musical language which could have made

the work a coherent and vital experience.

Maxwell Davies does, however, know how to get the best from the Scottish Chamber Orchestra — which made amends for the unwise decision to expose its strings to Beethoven's *Grosse Fuge* without a conductor in the first half of the concert — and he commanded all due attention from the SCO Chorus and the four vocal soloists, Lysa Tyrell, Margaret McDonald, Neil Mackie, and David Wilson-Johnson.

GERALD LARNER

POP

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GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

THE ROCK-A-BEATS

Who? The Leeds-based McGowan brothers, Craig, 16, Ray, 14, and Nell, 8, who claim to be the youngest rock'n'roll band in the world.

Bit of a 1950s name for a young band, isn't it? That's the whole point. Despite their youth the Rock-a-beats play rock'n'roll from the classic era, which is how they have just landed a gig supporting Bill Haley and the Comets.

Surely he's dead? Well, yes, but the band is still rocking, combined age 379 years, compared with 38 for the Rock-a-beats. The world's oldest and youngest rock'n'roll bands share the bill at Camden's Tennessee Club on Saturday.

Isn't eight a bit too young for all this? Neil, or "Little Red", is a confident young man. "I play lead guitar. I've been playing about six months and I had lessons so I know all the chords." Ray plays bass while Craig takes care of percussion.

How did they get started? "It's funny because Mum and Dad can't even play a triangle, but they love rock'n'roll and we grew up listening to it. Eddie Cochran and Gene Vincent are the best," says Ray.

Come on, isn't it all a bit of a stunt? "Fraid not. They have already supported Marty Wilde and Alvin Stardust, appeared on BBC Television's *Blue Peter*, and their first album is out on Polytone Records.

Won't they grow out of it? Tell that to the Comets.

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Director in a well known financial PR company is seeking a bright and highly organised PA to work in a friendly office. Must have at least 2 years' secretarial/PA experience and be fluent in WordPerfect. Must have excellent shorthand skills and ideally be female.

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Director in a well known financial PR company is seeking a bright and highly organised PA to work in a friendly office. Must have at least 2 years' secretarial/PA experience and be fluent in WordPerfect. Must have excellent shorthand skills and ideally be female.

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If you're using Microsoft Access, first close the database you want to compact and make sure no one else is accessing it across your office network. Then choose Tools/Database Utilities/Compact database.

A dialog box will open in which you can either type the full path & filename, e.g. c:/access/databases/company.adb, or use the Browse button to find it. Access will automatically assign a new name to the output file. Click on Compact and then on Save to save the newly compacted file. This can take some time.

You may want to keep both copies for a while to allow you to test the efficiency of the compaction.

CHRIS WARD

Success a matter of course

Susan MacDonald meets an expert team leader and a secretary in training

Sarah Pugh's career is a success story. As the PA to the Principal of Lewisham College, southeast London, she is not only a senior secretary working for "a rule-model boss" but also runs a team of secretaries and works in an organisation that trains secretaries.

Ms Pugh, 38, is clearly top-notch and an expert at working in teams. "Never underestimate the amount of thinking time you need," is one of her golden rules. She has an impressive list of qualifications. She did a two-year course in the 1970s at Wolverhampton Polytechnic (now University) and came away with a degree in languages — French and commercial Russian — and learnt both French and English shorthand. She worked for a time in France, since she was unable to find a bilingual job in Britain, before returning to London to work for the French bank Paribas. She admits that she has never needed her Russian — so far.

She gave up work when she married and had children — two boys now aged ten and seven — and decided to ease her way back nearly four years ago by taking a temporary job at Lewisham College, near where she lives. Now she is permanent PA to the Principal and leads three teams: two internal and one external.

"When I started, numerous secretaries had come and gone and there were no systems in place. No filing had been done for eight years." She looked at what was needed and built a secretarial team to cope with the

need to encourage ideas and input. Everyone likes to make a contribution and feel valued."

She believes that if you lead from the front and never ask a team member to do a task you wouldn't do yourself, the satisfactions of having a professional, reliable team behind you are plentiful.

She is clearly enthusiastic about the work that the college is doing in training secretaries, and took me round the faculty of business, computing and languages to peek in the computer-filled rooms where it all happens.

The college is a pioneer in secretarial/IT/personal development skills — there is more to being a secretary than just making the key-board sing and dance."

Students can choose a course to suit them. They range from a one-year, full-time secretarial course, a one-year advanced secretarial course or an 18-week intensive business/secretarial skills course. Then there is training for legal and medical secretaries, and business administration courses which allow students to gain experience by offering them work and study at the same time.

Dick Palmer, its director, says the

faculty "holds business breakfasts and invites recruitment agencies and employers to talk to the students. We want to respect their need to learn by giving them an environment that respects them."

At 38, Jilly Mbimba-Brown is changing careers. Having taken a degree in Third World development and politics at the Open University, she became a restorer of church buildings and then a Teff (teaching English as a foreign language) teacher. Now she would like to be a secretary, a receptionist or a translator, making use of the French and German she learnt when she lived in Switzerland. She is in the middle of the 18-week secretarial course at Lewisham which is, she says, everything she hoped for. Shorthand and computer work play a big part.

PAs are now being taken seriously and consulted

We get help on finding quality jobs from recruitment agencies, the faculty job shop and newspaper advertisements placed on the noticeboard," she says. "It would be good if we could do more than 10 hours a week, although we can use the computers out of hours."

Needless to say, Ms Pugh is invited to talk to the students. As we walk back across the campus she looks at my scruffy longhand disapprovingly. "I believe that secretaries should always keep up their shorthand. It should be used for taking telephone messages and notes so that it doesn't slip. For the first part of my career I hardly used it, and now I need it all the time."



Top, Sarah Pugh, Principal's PA. Below, trainee Jilly Mbimba-Brown

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 22 1997

House of Lords

Membership base of claim

[Speeches October 16]

Soden and Another v British and Commonwealth Holdings plc (in administration) and Another

Before Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Steyn, Lord Hoffmann and Lord Hope of Craighead

[Speeches October 16]

A sum was due to a member of a company "in his character of a member" within section 74(2)(b) of the Insolvency Act 1986 if the right to receive it was based on a cause of action founded on the statutory contract between the members and the company imposed by section 14(1) of the Companies Act 1985 and such other provisions of the Act as conferred rights or imposed liability on members.

Sums based on claims where membership, although an essential qualification for acquiring the claim, was not the foundation of the cause of action, fell outside section 74(2)(b).

The House of Lords so held in dismissing an appeal by John Francis Soden and Peter Sheldon Padmore, administrators of a scheme of arrangement made between Atlantic Computers plc and its creditors under section 425 of the Companies Act 1985, against the order of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Russell, Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Peter Gray) ("The Times" May 27, 1996, [1997] 2 WLR 205) dismissing their application for an order of Mr Justice Robert Walker ([1995] 1 BCLC 680).

Having bought the whole issued share capital of Atlantic, the respondents to the special British and Commonwealth Holdings plc, had discovered that the company was virtually worthless. Both Atlantic and B & C were placed in administration. B & C, had

brought the action against Atlantic and its directors claiming damages for negligent misrepresentation said to have induced the share purchase.

B & C also brought an action against Barclays de Zoete Wedd Ltd claiming damages for breach of duty. BZW issued a third party notice claiming an indemnity contribution or damages from

Atlantic within section 74(2)(b) so as to rank below the claims of other creditors.

Mr Justice Robert Walker had held that neither the B & C nor the BZW claim was subordinated to the claims of other creditors. The point before the House related to his decision on the B & C claim.

Mr. Potts QC and Mr Dan Prentiss for the administrators; Mr William Stubbs QC and Miss Catherine Roberts for B & C.

LORD BROWNE-WILKINSON said that Mr Potts had submitted that the basic principle applicable was that "members come last"; that is, the members of a company could take nothing until the outside creditors had been paid in full.

He had further submitted that in the present case there would be a manifest absurdity if B & C, as shareholders in its wholly owned subsidiary Atlantic, could circumvent that rule by claiming as damages sums quantified by reference to the worth of the Atlantic shares payable in respect of a misrepresentation leading to the acquisition of such shares.

His Lordship could not accept those submissions. Section 74(2)(b) required a distinction to be drawn between, on the one hand, sums due to a member in his character of a member "by way of dividends, profits or otherwise" and, on the other hand, sums due to a member otherwise than in his character as a member.

In the absence of any other indication to the contrary, some due in the character of a member had to be gains falling due under and by virtue of the statutory contract between the members and the company and the members inter se constituted by section 14(1) of the Companies Act 1985.

To the bundle of rights and liabilities created by the memorandum and articles of the company (given contractual force by section 14(1)) had to be added those rights and obligations of members conferred and imposed on members by the 1986 Act.

For ease of reference his Lordship referred to the combined effect of section 14 and the other rights and liabilities of members imposed

by the Companies Acts as "the statutory contract".

In the absence of any contrary indication sums due to a member "in his character of a member" were only those sums the right to which was based by way of cause of action on the statutory contract.

That construction accorded with principle. The principle was not "members come last"; a member having a cause of action independent of the statutory contract was in no worse a position than any other creditor.

The relevant principle was that the rights of members qua members came last, that is, rights founded on the statutory contract were, as the price of limited liability, subordinated to the rights of creditors based on other legal causes of action. The rationale of the section was to ensure that the rights of members as such did not compete with the rights of the general body of creditors.

If it was the case that dividing line between sums due in the character of a member and those not so due, there was no room for including in the former class cases where membership, though an essential qualification for acquiring the claim, was not the foundation of the cause of action.

Thus it was now clearly established that directors' fees were not due to a director "in his character of a member" even where the articles of the company required a director to hold a share qualification and provided for the remuneration of the directors.

In both *Addlestone and Webb* it had been held that a sum due in respect of damages payable for breach of contract or misrepresentation made by the company on the occasion of the issue, as opposed to the purchase, of its shares were held to be excluded by legislation similar to section 74(2)(b).

However, the reasoning in both those cases was dependent upon the protection of creditors from indirect reductions of capital. That was relevant to cases of subscription for shares issued by the company, but wholly irrelevant to purchases from third parties of already issued shares. The decisions in *Addlestone and Webb* did not apply to claims other than those relating to the issue of shares by the company.

His Lordship was clearly of the opinion that the sum if any due to B & C was not due to it in its "character of a member" of Atlantic within section 74(2)(b). The claim stood on exactly the same footing as any other claim by B & C against Atlantic which was wholly unrelated to the shares in Atlantic.

Lord Lloyd, Lord Steyn, Lord Hoffmann and Lord Hope agreed. Solicitors: Cameron McKenna; Stephenson Harwood.

That would be to enable B & C to convert its position from that of a holder of worthless shares in its wholly owned subsidiary into that of a creditor ranking pari passu with ordinary creditors of that subsidiary.

Mr. Potts, of course, accepted that there could be sums due to a member otherwise than in his character of a member, for example loans made by a member to the company or sums due to a member under a contract for the sale of goods by the member to the company.

But he submitted that a claim was maintained in the character of a member where the claimant sought to recover from the company the price which he had paid for his shares on the basis that he had not been repaid what they had been awarded by the company to the member.

Since the claimant who was induced to acquire his shares by subscription fell within the class of those who were not allowed to compete with general creditors (*re Addlestone and Webb Co* [1987] 3 Ch D 191) and *Webb Distributors (Aust) Pty Ltd v State of Victoria* [1993] 11 ACSR 731), there was no reason why a claimant who was induced to acquire his shares by purchase, as opposed to allotment, should be in a different position.

In short, he submitted that a sum was due to a person in his character as a member of a company where it was due to him under the bundle of rights which constituted his shares in the company or by reason of a warranty or misrepresentation on the part of the company going to the characteristics or value of the shares which induced him to acquire those shares.

His Lordship could not accept those submissions. Section 74(2)(b) required a distinction to be drawn between, on the one hand, sums due to a member in his character of a member "by way of dividends, profits or otherwise" and, on the other hand, sums due to a member otherwise than in his character as a member.

In the absence of any other indication to the contrary, some due in the character of a member had to be gains falling due under and by virtue of the statutory contract between the members and the company and the members inter se constituted by section 14(1) of the Companies Act 1985.

To the bundle of rights and liabilities created by the memorandum and articles of the company (given contractual force by section 14(1)) had to be added those rights and obligations of members conferred and imposed on members by the 1986 Act.

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The relevant principle was that the rights of members qua members came last, that is, rights founded on the statutory contract were, as the price of limited liability, subordinated to the rights of creditors based on other legal causes of action. The rationale of the section was to ensure that the rights of members as such did not compete with the rights of the general body of creditors.

If it was the case that dividing line between sums due in the character of a member and those not so due, there was no room for including in the former class cases where membership, though an essential qualification for acquiring the claim, was not the foundation of the cause of action.

Thus it was now clearly established that directors' fees were not due to a director "in his character of a member" even where the articles of the company required a director to hold a share qualification and provided for the remuneration of the directors.

In both *Addlestone and Webb* it had been held that a sum due in respect of damages payable for breach of contract or misrepresentation made by the company on the occasion of the issue, as opposed to the purchase, of its shares were held to be excluded by legislation similar to section 74(2)(b).

However, the reasoning in both those cases was dependent upon the protection of creditors from indirect reductions of capital. That was relevant to cases of subscription for shares issued by the company, but wholly irrelevant to purchases from third parties of already issued shares. The decisions in *Addlestone and Webb* did not apply to claims other than those relating to the issue of shares by the company.

His Lordship was clearly of the opinion that the sum if any due to B & C was not due to it in its "character of a member" of Atlantic within section 74(2)(b). The claim stood on exactly the same footing as any other claim by B & C against Atlantic which was wholly unrelated to the shares in Atlantic.

Lord Lloyd, Lord Steyn, Lord Hoffmann and Lord Hope agreed. Solicitors: Cameron McKenna; Stephenson Harwood.

That would be to enable B & C to convert its position from that of a holder of worthless shares in its wholly owned subsidiary into that of a creditor ranking pari passu with ordinary creditors of that subsidiary.

Mr. Potts, of course, accepted that there could be sums due to a member otherwise than in his character of a member, for example loans made by a member to the company or sums due to a member under a contract for the sale of goods by the member to the company.

But he submitted that a claim was maintained in the character of a member where the claimant sought to recover from the company the price which he had paid for his shares on the basis that he had not been repaid what they had been awarded by the company to the member.

Since the claimant who was induced to acquire his shares by subscription fell within the class of those who were not allowed to compete with general creditors (*re Addlestone and Webb Co* [1987] 3 Ch D 191) and *Webb Distributors (Aust) Pty Ltd v State of Victoria* [1993] 11 ACSR 731), there was no reason why a claimant who was induced to acquire his shares by purchase, as opposed to allotment, should be in a different position.

In short, he submitted that a sum was due to a person in his character as a member of a company where it was due to him under the bundle of rights which constituted his shares in the company or by reason of a warranty or misrepresentation on the part of the company going to the characteristics or value of the shares which induced him to acquire those shares.

His Lordship could not accept those submissions. Section 74(2)(b) required a distinction to be drawn between, on the one hand, sums due to a member in his character of a member "by way of dividends, profits or otherwise" and, on the other hand, sums due to a member otherwise than in his character as a member.

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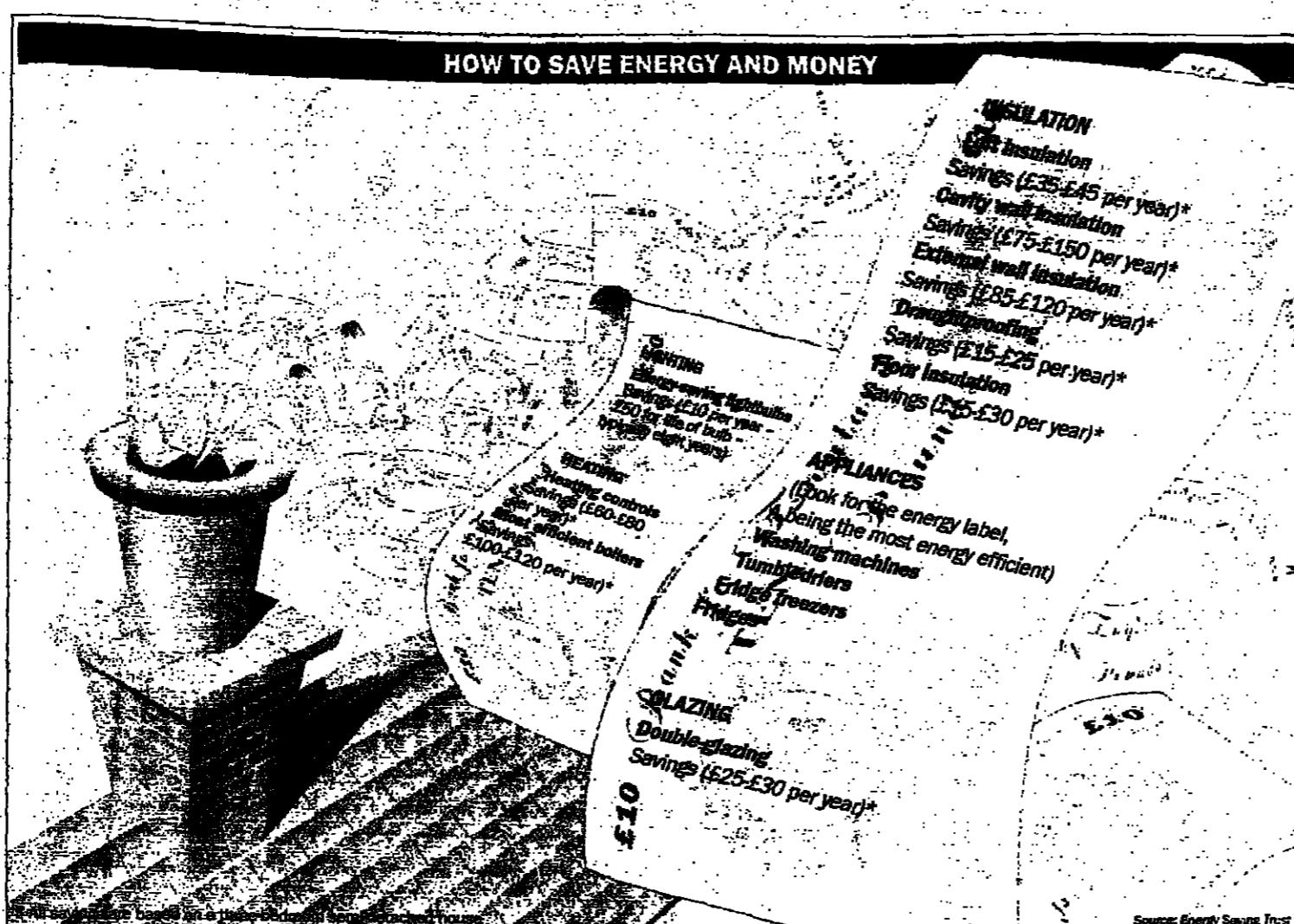
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Warm to fewer bills and cosier houses



The architect Bruce Buchanan in the energy-efficient triple-glazed house he designed and built

Winter-rooms, and with it the problem of warming our homes without overheating the budget. The statistics make alarming reading, with the average British home wasting £278 a year through draughty sash windows and badly insulated roofs.

In preparation, a new Government, keen to show its green credentials, is making this its Energy Efficiency Week. Advertisements featuring the familiar "Einstein" character will again grace our screens. Their aim: to make cavity-wall insulation a hot

Profit from this autumn's discounts and insulate your home, says Lois Letts

For those building houses, an integrated package of energy-saving measures makes not only moral but also financial sense. One such builder is the architect Bruce Buchanan, who recently designed his family's three-bedroom home overlooking Laurie Lee's beloved Slad Valley in Gloucestershire and used it as a testbed for state-of-the-art technology. Heating costs for his 200 square metre home come to £160 a year — about a fifth of what a traditionally heated space might cost. *Lois Letts writes.*

How to cut heating bills by 80 per cent in a new building using energy- saving measures

Buchanan was cajoled into adding one bath as a "vaguely decadent" concession to his teenage daughter.

The walls and loft floor are lined with a recycled newspaper product called Warmcel. As well as providing efficient insulation, this solved potential condensation problems. Other green measures include low-energy halogen-light fittings, a Swedish-built wood-burning stove on the open-plan first floor and an oil-condensing boiler. Rainwater is collected in tanks to irrigate the

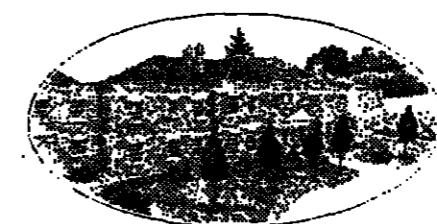
The nine-acre site cost £100,000 to buy, and the building work, all of which was contracted out, came to £180,000, of which about £10,000 (or 5½ per cent) went on the heating and

- Last week's *People & Property* supplement omitted to mention Amanda Cuthbert's book, *The Domestic Guide to Power*, electricity systems.

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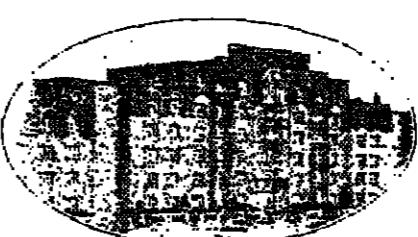
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PET JAWA HOMES

RACING: BROADCASTER LEAVES AFTER 32 YEARS TO RETURN TO WRITTEN WORD

Wilson parts company with BBC

By RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

JULIAN WILSON has decided to step down as BBC television's racing correspondent when his contract expires at the end of this year. His departure will come just a month after Sir Peter O'Sullivan completes his final BBC commentary at Newbury — and thereby signals the end of a distinctive era of racing coverage by the corporation.

"I have greatly enjoyed my time with the BBC, but after 32 years I feel the time has come for a change of direction," Wilson, 57, said yesterday. "It

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: BRAMBLES WAY
(5.40 Newcastle)
Next best: Elakik
(2.45 Yarmouth)

has been a privilege to be involved in such a fast-moving and revolutionary era in television and the golden age of programme making.

Wilson, who intends to concentrate on racehorse management and renew his journalistic career, added: "It has been an exciting time, but I have a strong desire to return to the world of the written word. The one ever-present colleague has been Sir Peter O'Sullivan. It will be sad to say 'over to Peter' for the last time."

Significantly, his decision to leave the BBC follows changes in the production, style and content of its racing coverage in recent months. Behind the scenes, Malcolm Kemp was brought in to mastermind the racing output, while in front of camera Clare Balding and Willie Carson have joined Wilson as regular presenters.



Mr Mulligan, the Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, reappears in the Desert Orchid Chase at Wincanton tomorrow

The changes in personnel and alterations in programme content followed strong criticism a year ago. Racecourses covered by the BBC let it be known they were unhappy with output considered to be dated. Two subsequent polls revealed that three out of four armchair viewers' preferred Channel 4's coverage of the sport — and its presenters.

Wilson, very much a traditionalist, had told friends he did not feel totally at ease with some of the modifications, which may have contributed to his decision to step down.

It remains to be seen whether the BBC will seek to replace

Wilson, but it is known that senior BBC figures hold John Francome, the former champion jockey and Channel 4 pundit, in high regard.

Less than three months after taking over as chairman of the Tote, Peter Jones gave racing an unpleasant surprise yesterday when he warned the sport not to expect the betting industry to provide extra funding for internationally low levels of prize-money.

As a former president of the Racehorse Owners' Association and founder director of the British Horseracing Board (BHB), Jones was at the forefront of campaigns aimed at

gaining racing a large slice of betting revenue — but he appears to have undergone a dramatic conversion since succeeding Lord Wyat of Weeford on August 1.

"Betting needs greater margins, as well as turnover, to develop business," Jones said in Birmingham, where he opened the Bookmakers Show. With his former BHB colleagues and Peter Savill, in particular, apparently in mind, he added: "And the message this sends to certain people is that they don't really understand the investment necessary to keep these shops in business, recognising that

70 per cent of the business is on horse racing."

"So if betting shops drop our business or don't invest in the right way it will be to the ultimate detriment of horse racing. Understandably, the owners wants to get more money back into horse racing but it can't look at betting shops and say we can get money out of them, it's just not there and it would be shortsighted if they tried."

The key point of his address was that betting shops must improve their appeal or risk losing customers to other areas of the competitive leisure industry.

NEWCASTLE

THUNDERER
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3.35 TROJAN HERO, 4.10 SOUTHERN DOMINION, 4.40
KATE KOMATA, 5.10 CHINOU, 5.40 LAPU-LAPU.
Newmarket Correspondent: 2.35 ASTRAPI (opn).

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
DRAW: 5F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST SIS

2.00 ERF MAIDEN STAKES

(2-Y-O; £3,436; 6f) (13 runners)

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FOOTBALL: DALGLISH'S TEAM STAND ON THE VERGE OF UNLIKELY SUCCESS IN EUROPE

Point could open door for Newcastle

FROM DAVID MADDOK
IN EINDHOVEN

THE guide book gets straight to the point. "Eindhoven is a peculiar town, its very first sentence suggests of a place dominated by an oppressive concrete skyline. As an opening gambit, at least it is honest.

There is also a peculiarity about the European Champions' League group C. It is peculiar that Newcastle United visit the Dutch city in a far stronger position than their opponents, PSV. Peculiar, too, that Barcelona travel to Kiev requiring victory merely to retain a real interest in the competition.

Quite how Newcastle have got themselves in such a position is most peculiar. Kenny Dalglish, the manager, spoke of a blip on Saturday after his side lost 4-1 away to Leeds United. It is increasingly apparent, though, that a magnificent victory over Barcelona was, in fact, the anomaly.

Dalglish knew back in March, when his side was destroyed by AS Monaco, that he had to build a new defensive foundation at St James' Park and yet now, six months on with the same personnel, similar failings were finally exposed by Leeds. Before Saturday a creaking back four had somehow escaped a complete unmasking, but the second half against Barcelona and the first in Kiev, where they contrived a wholly unlikely draw, hinted at trouble ahead.

Quite how Dalglish has failed to address his central defensive problems is the most peculiar of all. It is notable that only the continued excellence of Shay Given has kept Newcastle on track when goalkeeper is the only position that Dalglish recognised as a problem and subsequently acted incisively.

PSV enter this game under pressure, although Dalglish said yesterday: "They could easily have had six points in the group because they are a very strong side." The fact



Tomasson, right, must fill the boots of Asprilla, pictured celebrating against Barcelona with the Dane. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

remains, however, that they have just one. Dutch football is in a state of flux because it has its own peculiar problems within its domestic league.

While the national team has qualified for the World Cup finals as one of the outstanding teams and strong favourites, the club sides are becoming progressively weaker because of a damaging export policy.

The Dutch champions may

just turn out to be an ordinary side. If so, then what appeared the toughest of all the Champions' League groups could open invitingly for Newcastle.

As Jon Dahl Tomasson, Newcastle's Danish forward, suggested yesterday: "If we win in Holland we have a very real prospect of making the last eight." To do so without the goalscoring talents of Alan Shearer or Faustino Asprilla would be a minor miracle.

PSV have their all-Belgian

forward line of Nils and De Bilde restored after injury and suspension, and they will pose a more obvious threat than Tomasson at the other end.

The question is, without the unavailable Pistone — Dalglish's only change to his defence — can Newcastle cope? One could not discover the answer in one of the manager's typically cautious press conferences yesterday. He would not even disclose if

the injured Pistone was actually at the port ready to travel (he was not, as it happens) and, when asked if the Italian had a chance of playing, he replied: "He has a better chance if he travels."

That was the manager's only illuminating quote. Asked whether he thought that a draw would be a good result, he responded: "It's better than a defeat — but not as good as a victory." Quite,

Maldini falls well short of expectations

Next Wednesday, in Moscow, poor Cesare Maldini will be on the rack again, pounding the touchline, exhorting his Italy players... They meet Russia in the first leg of their World Cup play-off and, though having the home leg to come is perceived as an advantage, Russia in Moscow are a hard nut to crack.

Maldini, a kind, decent, genial man, should never have been subjected to such pressures. Second in command to Enzo Bearzot in two World Cups, one of them won, and the successful manager of the national under-21 team, he can hardly know what has hit him.

In retrospect, the win over England at Wembley in February was perhaps the worst thing that could have happened to him, raising expectations and seeming to confirm that, after the sterile years of Arrigo Sacchi, he was the man to make Italian football flow again — no more 4-4-2, with stifling off-side tactics.

Against England in Rome, he bowed to public pressure, put in the inexperienced striker, Inzaghi, and wasted Gianfranco Zola. Maldini insisted: "Gianfranco told me he didn't feel out of position. Inzaghi had a 40-degree temperature. Things fall apart." This time Maldini will have Roberto di Matteo, the Chelsea midfield player, who was suspended in Rome, and will surely deploy Zola up front, with either Christian Vieri or Fabrizio Ravanelli, but what can he get out of his demoralised team?

The Italy coach cannot

know what has hit him'

difference at club as well as international level? It is a moot point, but surely Valeri Lobanovski has done and is doing so again. "The Colonel" is the man who, in the 1970s, turned Dinamo Kiev and the Soviet side made up solely of its players into a substantial power.

Taking over the Soviet team again on the eve of the World Cup in Mexico in 1986, he drafted in several Kiev players. They routed Hungary in their first game, but were beaten 4-3 by Belgium in the second round. In Italy in 1990, it was hard for him to build on the remnants of the Kiev team, most of whose stars had gone abroad. This he ultimately did himself, only to return last season to Dinamo Kiev and transform a team that has looked

formidable this season in the European Cup Champions' League.

Lobanovski, who has always evinced a highly scientific approach to football, does

not manage the Ukraine team that now meets Croatia in the play-offs. That role is filled by one of his former protégés, Iosif Szabo, once a clever inside forward, who has led his lively young team shrewdly. But most of them are Lobanovski's men from Dinamo Kiev.

Across the world, in Argentina, Daniel Passarella, the former centre half and captain of the side, has qualified his team, using a plethora of players, but failing to convince press or public. He swears he will bring back the prolific Gabriel Batistuta, of Fiorentina, for the finals, yet has perversely excluded him from qualifying games. This in a team that, last time out, could not even score at home against Uruguay, who had already been eliminated.



Maldini knows that Russia provide a difficult obstacle between him and the World Cup finals

Strachan content with Coventry

GORDON STRACHAN has pledged his future to Coventry City after reports that Benfica wanted to appoint him as their coach. "If the media reports are accurate then I am honoured and flattered, but I am not going anywhere," he said yesterday.

"I am more than happy in my job here and I know I have the support of the chairman, directors, players and most of the fans."

Bryan Richardson, the chairman of the FA Carling Premiership club, said that he is already talking with Strachan about a new contract that would confirm him as the manager at Highfield Road beyond 2000.

Strachan, meanwhile, has renewed his attack on the Football Association in the wake of the recent sending-off of Dion Dublin, the Coventry striker, and called for the game's governing body to change its review procedure so

that decisions are made by the organisation's technical director, Howard Wilkinson.

Strachan is angry because the FA refused to rescind Dublin's dismissal against Blackburn Rovers. He said that the decision should be left in the hands of people who had played the game, not the likes of Graham Kelly, the FA chief executive.

He also criticised the lack of help that Dublin has received from the Professional Footballers' Association. "The PFA have sat back and not helped him one bit," Strachan said.

"He is a member whose wages are getting reduced because he is not playing and he has lost all kinds of incentives. The PFA have done absolutely nothing. Dion was expecting them to come along and back him but they have not.

"I also need to know that Graham Kelly... does not sit down and watch the video over a cup of tea or a glass of

white wine and decide what constitutes violent conduct that way. People who have not been in the game or near a field should not be making decisions like this. Howard Wilkinson is the FA's technical director. If he was involved, I would find it easier to accept."

Wolverhampton Wanderers have completed the £800,000

signing of Doug Freedman, the Crystal Palace striker. Freedman, who had been initially signed on loan, scored in their 3-1 home win over Swindon Town on Saturday. He is likely to play against Tranmere Rovers in their Nationwide League first division match at Molineux tonight.

Wolves have also completed the £200,000 signing of Kevin Muscat from Palace, with Jamie Smith, the defender valued at £1 million, moving in the opposite direction.

Egil Osterstad, the Southampton striker, has flown home to Norway to undergo surgery on an ankle injury that will keep him out of action until Christmas.

Mick Jones, the Plymouth Argyle manager, has been charged with misconduct by the FA after alleged comments to David Crick, the referee, during his side's match against Luton Town on October 11.

"They've had ten inches of

No change of venue for Chelsea cup-tie

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE Cup Winners' Cup game in Norway tomorrow between Tromsø and Chelsea will take place in Tromsø or not at all, Chelsea confirmed yesterday. The outbreak of severely wintry weather in the town, 200 miles inside the Arctic Circle, had led to suggestions that Ruud Gullit, the Chelsea player-manager, and his team were ready for a last-minute change of venue to Oslo.

But Gwyn Williams, the Chelsea assistant manager, said that there was no question of the game being moved. "If the pitch isn't fit to play, the game will have to be rescheduled for another date," Williams, who saw Tromsø lose 4-0 on Sunday, a result that means they must now face a relegation play-off said.

"They've had ten inches of

snow in Tromsø and they're

expecting more, although we've been told they'll only call it off if there's more than two feet. There is undersoil heating and a plastic cover over the pitch. We won't really know what condition the pitch is in until they take that off."

"Our motto is that we must be ready to face anything, and we feel we're prepared for whatever the weather throws at us. We're bringing nylons, gloves, woolly hats and thermal underwear, everything we feel we might need."

Chelsea have lost two players to injury over the past week, with Gustave Poyet ruled out for the season after sustaining a snapped cruciate ligament in training, and Graeme Le Saux injuring an elbow against Leicester City last Saturday.

Dmitri Kharine, the goalkeeper, who has not played first-team football since rupturing cruciate ligaments 13 months ago, has been added to the Chelsea party, while Jody Morris, the young midfield player, is also fit to join the squad of 22.

Gullit has been proclaiming the virtues of the domestic game as his team prepare for further European action. "It is amazing how English football has developed," he said. "Now it has become the role model for all other competitions in the world. The good thing is that English football wanted to change without losing its own identity."

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6/1 - 2-0 33/1

8/1 - 2-1 25/1

8/1 - 3-0 100/1

9/1 - 3-1 86/1

40/1 - 3-2 80/1

12/2 - 0-0 13/2

11/2 - 1-1 11/2

22/1 - 2-2 22/1

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Agassi dancing to the music of time

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

I was there at the moment when Andre Agassi's life changed for ever. He was losing to Boris Becker at Wimbledon; it was not a fightback. I am convinced to this day that Agassi had already accepted defeat and had decided to go down showboating. Hit a few zinging winners off the Becker serve and send 'em home laughing.

But every outrageous improvisation came off as Agassi played into the gloaming in a trance of self-delight. Just about every tennis writer had written off Agassi as a player designed to decorate an occasion, never to control it. It always seemed that Agassi had reached the same conclusion himself and accepted it totally. In that extraordinary evening, he changed his mind about... well, just about everything, really, and certainly everything in sport.

He won Wimbledon that year — 1992 — and went on to win three grand-slam tournaments in all. Despite that, he is still regarded as a person of little substance — odd, if you consider that he won as many grand-slam tournaments as Arthur Ashe. Now he has begun a comeback. If he succeeds in getting back to the top, he will have done something that neither John McEnroe nor Bjorn Borg was able to do.

Comebacks are troubling things. They are almost invariably painful to watch. In sport, time is always on fast-forward. When a top athlete takes a break from top-level sport, his subsequent return can only exaggerate the already exag-



Agassi, the tennis rebel, is attempting to succeed where McEnroe and Borg failed

gerated effects of time. To see the ageing former champion effortlessly wafted aside by a person of no account is as much a reminder of life's goal as a skull on your desk.

Agassi's comeback is not quite run-of-the-mill. People usually say that they do not wish to see an athlete lose his dignity. Agassi never had any to lose, so that's all right. Youthful rebellion was his line, and he made it his fortune. The length of his hair was laid down by contract; it was unfortunate, then, that he

went startlingly bald. Always suspect a rebel who never removes his baseball cap.

The moral of the story is the groundstrokes. It seems unlikely that Agassi will again be able to combine eye and hand and desire. "I had a slight snuff early on," he said after his straight-sets comeback defeat by Todd Martin in Stuttgart on Monday. "But it was like the brief passing of a gentle breeze."

In a way, that sums up the entirety of Agassi's career. Normally with players of the excellent *Winning Ugly*,

type — extravagant gifts, theatrical nature, spotty record — people incur the waste of talent. It is significant, however, that with Agassi, no one has ever bothered to take that line. With Agassi, it was always perfectly obvious that people like him come as a package. You cannot teach him the diligence of Ivan Lendl. Agassi made it pedantically clear that there was no point at all in even thinking about it.

Brad Gilbert, author of the

entirety of Agassi's career.

Normally with players of the

excellent *Winning Ugly*,

that he won any at all. Why should he? Sports marketing is so crazy that a person such as Agassi can become insanely rich simply by taking part, by mincing about in the right outfit and keeping his name in the newspapers. Image, as Agassi said, is everything. Winning tennis matches — well, that hardly mattered to him.

And so, in effect, Agassi

played as an amateur. The

money that he got from winning tournaments was small change. He did not need the victory; he has always, in a very real sense, been playing for fun. He played to please himself; a process that involved pleasing others.

He is talking up his come-

back in no end of a purposeful

way, but behind the talk, you can sense the fear. For all his dilatory nature, a tennis player is what Agassi is. Who or what is Agassi when the tennis stops?

Retirement is a kind of death, a death of the self. The

latest comeback is intended to

silence, but only for a while;

the sound of Time's winged

chariot. Agassi is a gnat

hoping for a second day. But

soon, soon, life will once again

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Retirement is a kind of

Sport, frankly, has nothing to do with it

For reasons known only to the commissioning editor, Channel 4 carried an hour-long advertisement for *The Sport* newspaper last night. It was part of the *Cutting Edge* series, but *Sex, Lies and Aliens* was about as "cutting-edge" as a frozen fish finger.

Given the frequency with which documentary-makers "stick" up their unsuspecting subjects these days, there was initially something rather refreshing about watching a gang of people who had not only got the cameras in but had somehow arranged for all objectivity to be suspended for the duration. Poxey word "objectivity" anyway, though it's not?

Not Tony Livesey, Editor-in-Chief: "I like to think I'm carrying on the traditions of Shakespeare—he didn't write his plays for poxy students and swots; he wrote them for the ordinary people of his generation." In other words, if

bosoms be the boobs of love, bounce on, Marcus Suley's film did as it was told, helped by the office trampoline and Ms Lola Ferrari, whose unfeasible attributes were already well known to Channel 4.

A film so dogmatically faithful to its subject served as reminder of why, for a brief time, ten years ago, *The Sport* was a publishing phenomenon. On a one-off basis on a hungover Sunday morning, it was funny, in such a ridiculous over-the-top, bumper-on-the-Moon way, that it actually became fashionable—for about a nano-second. But the fatal flaw of the one-trick pony was soon apparent. One week it was cool to say you bought it mainly for the headlines (undoubtedly still the best bits), the next a nippie count approaching three figures made it a social embarrassment. Fine with *The Sport*, of course, never wanted poxy middle-class readers any-

way. So what was it doing on Channel 4?

In a style that was reminiscent of *Driving School*, parts of the action were either staged or contrived. This ensured that we heard both ends of a phone call about a rather unglamorous pin-up that adored the sports pages. "What the sports department knows about glamour, I just don't know," complained David Sullivan, proprietor. "It's not going to happen again," Livesey reassured him. "I've just poked out the sports editor's eyes with a sharp stick." First Shakepeare, now Sophocles.

Clever editing managed to whip up a bit of a finale around the paper's plans to publish a obviously libelous book about Michael Jackson [I presumed the pop star but on second thoughts, the new chief executive of Channel 4 would explain a lot more]. Livesey was desperate to

Channel 5, where Vanessa's Day With... brought together Vanessa Feltz and Edwina Currie. Stuff of nightmares really, isn't it?

So it would prove, although it was difficult to say which of these silly, rearing women came off worse. I think possibly Feltz, who struggled to contain both her excitement and her hypocrisy as fate (was it?) dealt her four aces—the prearranged date for filming coincided with the announcement that the Currie marriage was over after 25 years. And yet she hadn't cancelled, noted a gleeful Feltz, as she waited at the airport for her guest to arrive. "Is she such a publicity junkie that she wants publicity even on the day her marriage splits up?" Then Currie arrived and Feltz was all smiles and waves and can I carry your bag? Yuk.

Over the next ten minutes, I think it is probably fair to say that Currie will have won herself few new admirers, feigning disingenuous astonishment at the coverage her separation was receiving ("I'm not a politician any more, I'm not a public figure") and telling unlikely stories about being mistaken for Jan Collins. Her saving grace, however, was that she had clearly taken a serious dislike to Feltz, whose ersatz matress was getting her absolutely nowhere. "Do you feel comfortable with what's in your wardrobe?" asked Feltz, making a beeline straight for it. "Of course," purred Currie. "I think it's as glamorous as what's in your wardrobe. I think we'll call it a dishonourable draw and move on.

It's bad; it isn't. But because the multi-stranded structure he had chosen gave the impression that he was practising for something else. At the end of a final episode that brought one or two of the storylines to hasty-looking happy endings, I was left with a slight feeling of: so what?

Others possibly felt the same, which might explain why Phil Daniels (who, unlike as it may seem, spent most of the last episode being rescued by a nice woman from *The Daily Telegraph*), was awarded with an epilogue. In it he admitted there's nothing more boring than an urban eulogy, but he gave one anyway—just in case we'd missed what Merchant had been trying to say for the past eight weeks. "While some people are scratched from the urban rat race, others pull up lame or drop out quietly and voluntarily." I still felt ever so slightly so-soish. Sorry.

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

despite the fact that he couldn't substantiate a word. The deputy editor, in a scene that was the nearest we got to dissent all night, was more doubtful: "My bet is that it's pulled with about ten minutes to go." As it turned out, Sullivan sensibly lost his nerve rather earlier than that. Small contrived panic over.

Confirmation that this was no night for shrinking violets came on

BBC1
6.00am Business Breakfast (22193)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (8245819)
9.05 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (3553803)
9.30 Style Challenge (278103)
9.55 Kitey (T) (205880)
10.35 Change That (8912700)
11.00 News (T) and weather (7474388)
11.05 The Really Useful Show (T) (7407222)
11.35 Room for Improvement (Derek Bell of the Chateau gives a guided tour of his Victorian home (3415153)
12.00 News (T) (8857445)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (7520222)
12.35 Going for a Song (S024283)
1.00 News (T) and weather (20648)
1.30 Regional News and weather (73271071)
1.40 The Weather Show (8482434)
1.45 Neighbours (T) (7106483)
2.10 Quirky (T) (8099523)
3.00 Through the Keyhole (T) (1241006)
3.25 The Really Useful Show Update (4691222)
3.30 Playdays (8718203) 3.50 Chucklevision: 4.10 Get Your Own Back (6574445) 4.35 The Queen of Tuna (5518174)
5.00 Newsworld (T) (2791613) 5.10 Blue Peter (T) (8285938)
5.35 Neighbours (T) (778067)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (T) and weather (975)
6.30 Regional News (377)
7.00 Face Value New series on the world of fashion and beauty. Alice Beer meets the women who test new products for Avon, and lottery winners reveal how their shopping habits have changed. Plus: The dangers of using talcum powder (T) (49422)
7.30 Tomorrow's World. A breakthrough in forensic science has enabled DNA to be extracted from fingerprints (T) (261)
8.00 Crime: Beat Men! Lewis investigates among Britain's youth as the Government pledges to crack down on children who continually step out of line (T) (6590)
8.30 The National Lottery Live Music by China Black (T) (160446)
8.45 Points of View with Chris Seager (T) (183386)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (T) (4377)
9.29 National Lottery Update (611230)
9.30 The X Factor: Meetings of a Cigarette Smoking Man. Cancer: Men and the assassinations of JFK and Martin Luther King. With David Duchovny (T) (563377)
10.20 Chalk Lett in series (T) (7870700)
10.50 Full Circle with Michael Palin (T) (870464) WALES: 10.50 A Touch of Class (357067) 11.20 Full Circle with Michael Palin (T) (801613) 12.00pm Grand Prix Show (2333425) 1.00 FHM: Talent for the Game (S03465) 2.30 News (3456304)
11.40 Grand Prix Snooker. Fourth round highlights (888397)
12.30am Tales for the Game (1991) with Edward James Olmos, Jeff Corbett and Loraine Bracco. A baseball account simulates on a selected hillbilly pitcher. Directed by Robert M. Young (S03491)
2.00 Weather (8454965)

BBC2
6.00am Technology: Strike a Light (T) 6.30 Artists in Logic: Computers in Wood (T) (81261)
7.00 See... Hear... Breakfast, News (T) and signing (8937280)
7.15 Teletubbies (T) (6527700) 7.40 Smart's Adventures (T) (4074657) 8.05 The Really Wild Show (T) (7331629)
12.20pm HTV News and Weather (8853629)
12.30 News (T) and weather (5286260)
12.55 Shortland Street (3750522)
1.20 HTV Crimestoppers (2243409)
1.25 Home and Away (T) (76840358)
1.50 Cuisine (T) (71043716)
2.20 Vanessa (T) (7425990)
3.20 News (T) (6549419)
3.35 Regional News (T) (4685990)
3.30 Tops TV (700551) 3.40 The Parloes (923822) 3.50 The New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh (T) (7347713) 4.20 Neil's Art Attack Scrapbook. New series (T) (6954261) 4.45 Sabrina the Teenage Witch (T) (532754)
5.10 What? Where? When? Why? (8200822)
5.25 English Express (9444716) 5.45 Words and Pictures (8303648) 10.00 Teletubbies (T) (6523333) 10.30 Numberplate (6462261) 10.45 Cats' Eyes (4444716)
11.25 Around Scotland (5693342) 11.26 The Great British Picture (T) (8704645)
11.40 Revue (8003222)
12.10pm Quirky Minutes Plus (8074982)
12.30 Working Lunch (80597)
1.00 Quirky (T) (8212426) 1.10 The Countryside Hour: The Lancashire coast (724307)
2.10 Grand Prix Snooker. Fourth-round action from Bournemouth (9412626)
6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (T) (487700)
6.45 Stilts (T) (148025)
7.30 British Bitch New series Spice Girl Mel B discusses her racial identity. Plus, a report from Antigua on refugees from Montserrat (T) (803)
8.00 University Challenge Liverpool take on Newman College, Cambridge, for a place in the next round (T) (4532)
8.30 The Antiques Show Perfume bottles; Noddy merchandise; and a rural property comes under the gavel. Plus, tips on caring for delicate lace (T) (3687)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (T) (4377)
9.29 National Lottery Update (611230)
9.30 The X Factor: Meetings of a Cigarette Smoking Man. Cancer: Men and the assassinations of JFK and Martin Luther King. With David Duchovny (T) (563377)
10.20 Chalk Lett in series (T) (7870700)
10.50 Full Circle with Michael Palin (T) (870464) WALES: 10.50 A Touch of Class (357067) 11.20 Full Circle with Michael Palin (T) (801613) 12.00pm Grand Prix Show (2333425) 1.00 FHM: Talent for the Game (S03465) 2.30 News (3456304)
11.40 Grand Prix Snooker. Fourth round highlights (888397)
12.30am Tales for the Game (1991) with Edward James Olmos, Jeff Corbett and Loraine Bracco. A baseball account simulates on a selected hillbilly pitcher. Directed by Robert M. Young (S03491)
2.00 Weather (8454965)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes. The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes, numbers which allow you to record programmes instantly with VideoPlus+. Handset: Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ ("Pluscode") and Video PlusCodes are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

Disc Jockey L.T.J. Baskett (9.00pm)
9.00 Modern Times New series follows music businessmen. Tony Fordham promotes his protégé, top club disc jockey L.T.J. Baskett (T) (822208)
9.50 The Rugby Club The head coach comes close to resigning, and there's a coup in the boardroom (T) (188377)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (992367)
11.15 Over the Edge Stories focusing on disability (T) (303432)
11.50 Building Signs USA Michael Sorkin deserts Los Angeles airport (T) (7)
12.00 Weather (895287)
12.05am The Phil Silvers Show (b/w) (T) (4054526)
12.30pm Zombi: The Making of a Super-Zombie (519894) 12.45 A Surfeit of Carbon (T) (2561520) 1.10 Ecological Predictions (T) (2672859)
1.35 Forests in Trindad (1528139) 2.00 Ghostwriter (8594) 4.00 The French Experience (14965) 5.00 PCN Nursing Update (35052)

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